Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, June 14, 2018 | Read by more than 52,000 people | Price when sold 70p

Residents were told they can only shower once a week

CARE HOME IS 'INADEQUATE'

Report by Dayna Farrington

A CARE home where residents are only allowed a shower once a week has been put in special measures following a damning report by inspectors.

Prestwood Coach House, near Stourbridge, has been ranked as 'inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The home's safety, leadership and responsiveness were given the bottom rating, while effectiveness and care was rated as 'requires improvement' by inspectors who visited on April 17. A spokesman for the home said they were disappointed at the findings of the inspection, while they apologised that some aspects of care 'appeared to fall below the standards'.

The report said: "At the last inspection people raised concerns that they could only receive a shower once a week. At this inspection, no improvements had been made.

"One person told us 'I have a shower once a week, I have requested to have one daily, or at least twice a week. I have been told they could not do this for me as everyone will want it and they don't have the staff.'

Time

"All the residents we spoke with and documentation confirmed that people only had a shower or bath once a week. A staff member said 'It is awful, we are the ones that have to tell the people no. People can't have the care they want, it's embarrassing.'

"We spoke with the home manager and registered manager who did not understand the importance of providing care that was personalised to people's individual needs. The home manager said 'It's a care home people have to accept what happened at home won't happen here'."

The report added: "We saw when people were hoisted staff were not always mindful of people's dignity."

A spokesperson for the home said: "The well-being of people entrusted to our care is our first priority and we are disappointed and extremely sorry that some aspects of care at The Coach House appeared to fall below the standards we expect our care homes to provide.

"We take any findings and reports by CQC inspectors seriously and since the April inspection a comprehensive action plan has been implemented to make the necessary improvements."

FATHER AND SON FACE MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

Michelle Davies and Amy Kelly, both from Candidate Source, with Rhys, Anthony Cokeley and his daughter Ffion

A FATHER is taking on the Three Peaks Challenge to raise money for a specialist school that is helping his six-year-old son – and the youngster will join him on the final mountain.

Anthony Cokeley, 32, a manager with Dudley CVS, is looking to raise more than £2,500 for Pens Meadow Parent Outreach Service. The school is helping his son Rhys with his cerebral palsy and complex learning needs. Anthony will take on the UK's highest three mountains in just four days, starting with Ben Nevis on June 20, followed by Scaffel Pike and Snowdon.

Fundraising efforts are being backed by friends, teachers and Coleshill-based Candidate Source. The online recruitment agency has donated £1,000 to help with purchasing equipment including a Deuter Kid Carrier that will transport Rhys up the final mountain so he can complete his own challenge.

Anthony said: "I was very impressed with the Outreach team. It's very tough being a dad and a carer and having their support, advice and guidance has made a massive difference." To find out more visit www.gofundme.com/Pens-Meadow

RETAIL

Poundworld hit by high street crisis

POUNDWORLD has fallen into administration putting shops and jobs across the Black Country at risk in the latest blow to the high street. Among those under threat is the budget chain's Merry Hill branch.

Attempts to save the company failed after last-ditch sales talks broke down this week, meaning 5,100 jobs across the country now hang in the balance.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "It's extremely sad news. Sadly Poundworld won't be the last to hit major difficulties. All we can do is support our High Street as best we can."

COURT

Model's kidnapper jailed for 16 years

A KIDNAPPER from the Black Country has been jailed for 16 years and eight months by an Italian court for abducting British model Chloe Ayling.

Polish-born Lukasz Herba, from Tividale, is said to have drugged and kidnapped her when she arrived in Milan for a modeling job, then held her for six days at a farmhouse. Herba, 30, had claimed Ayling, 20, agreed to the scheme to boost her career.

POLICE

The thin blue line gets even thinner

POLICE officer numbers in the West Midlands and Staffordshire have plummeted by more than 2,500 in a decade.

West Midlands Police has lost 24 per cent in officer numbers over the period from 2010 to September last year, and now has 228 officers per 100,000 population. This dramatic drop is the fourth biggest of any force across England and Wales.

INSIDE

HONOUR FOR BLOOD BIKER

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Stourbridge CHRONICLE
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
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Council plea over cost of school dinners

Mike Wood MP

THE price of hot meals in Dudley schools should be frozen for a year, council bosses have urged.

Dudley Council chiefs have advised headteachers across the borough that the cost to parents should remain at £2.30 from September 2018 to July 2019, the same as this academic year.

The meals have increased in price by 10p every year for the last three years.

Councillor Angus Lees, cabinet member for children's services at the council, said keeping the price the same would help families with their finances. He explained: "We recognise as a council that for many families money is tight. In light of price rises in recent years, we are recommending a price freeze as a goodwill gesture to help with family finances.

"Healthy, hot, nourishing school meals can help children improve their concentration at school, and ultimately fulfil their academic potential. We hope a price freeze will mean more children are able to enjoy a healthy meal at school every day to aid with their learning and development."

The authority's catering service has written to headteachers at all council-run primary and secondary schools this week, recommending the price freeze. It will be up to individual schools whether to accept the recommendation.

MP for Dudley Mike Wood said if the freeze was accepted it would be excellent news for parents and carers. He added: "This is great news for local parents in Dudley.

"It's so important that Dudley Council helps every child have access to a good, affordable meal every day.

"My two children both go to Dudley schools and we have seen the price of school meals creep up. This will be a big help to a lot of people."

'Unstable' woman hit boyfriend with a glass

A WOMAN with a history of violence smashed a glass into the back of her boyfriend's neck in a Dudley town centre pub.

James Davis was taken to hospital where he had to have eight stitches in the wound. He had been seeing Zoe Tolley, of Stourbridge, for two weeks.

The date had started out peacefully enough at The Little Barrell pub in High Street, Dudley, Ms Fiona Cortese told Wolverhampton Crown Court. Tolley, aged 27, then moved on to The Courthouse in New Street while Mr Davis went to get some takeaway food. He joined her there after getting himself half a pint of lager. But when he sat down, the defendant picked up his glass and threw the lager over him, shouting and swearing as she did so. Staff had to tell her to calm her down.

Instead, she picked up Mr Davis's food and hurled it aside, then followed him to the bar and brought the glass down on his neck while he stood at the bar, with his back turned to her.

Apology

Whilst in custody after being arrested, Tolley asked about Mr Davis's injury and sent him a letter of apology. She had previous convictions for violence. In 2016, she struck someone on the head with a bottle and then racially abused two police officers.

Last year she was convicted of battery for hitting someone on the head with an iPad. When officers were called, they discovered cannabis for which she received a 12-month community order with a rehabilitation requirement. The court heard she was in breach of that order.

Tolley, of Vauxhall Road, pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm. Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said Tolley had drug and alcohol issues.

A psychiatric report revealed she was emotionally unstable and had a personality disorder but also strong family support. Judge James Burbidge, QC, deferred sentence for four months.

Runner says thanks to lifesaver

Simon Farmer says thans to Lisa Kendrick, left, who saved his life and Sammie Cartwright of Yellow Army runners

MORE than 300 runners took part in a special Park Run to celebrate 70 years of the NHS.

One runner joined Saturday's Dudley Park Run at the Dell Stadium to thank a fellow runner and nurse for saving his life.

Simon Farmer had suffered a cardiac arrest when competing in a Couch To 5K run with the Yellow Army runners. If it wasn't for the quick thinking of fellow runners, in particular Lisa Kendrick who performed CPR, he may not have survived. Nine days after receiving heart bypass surgery, Simon came to the Dudley Park Run to say an emotional thank you.

Keeley Waldron, committee member of the Yellow Army, said: "The Yellow Army free running community had a big presence at the event with many of their beginners graduating from their Couch To 5K course. Simon and the rest of the beginners were all presented with their medals and certificates."

Emergency critical care car is £500k

MORE lives could be saved across the West Midlands following the launch of Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's innovative £500,000 critical care car.

The car has been launched with West Midlands Ambulance Service to specifically tend to those suffering from either a cardiac arrest, sepsis, stroke or serious respiratory issues.

The BMW X5 rapid response vehicle, funded by the charity at a cost of £500,000 a year, will be based in Oldbury and will initially be operated daily between 7am and 7pm by a critical care paramedic. The car joins the charity's fleet after research into the future of emergency patient care.

After a six-month feasibility trial with West Midlands Ambulance Service and the West Midlands CARE Team, results demonstrated patient survival and recovery could be improved with the launch of the MAAC critical care car.

Hanna Sebright, chief executive for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "While we will always remain a helicopter-led pre-hospital emergency care service, the new car enhances our ability to save more lives."

Steve Wheaton, assistant chief ambulance officer at West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to work with MAAC to fund this new service which has the potential to save dozens of lives each year."

Bus travel on tap with contactless

BUS passengers in the West Midlands can now pay for any journey they take with National Express with just a tap of their bank card.

After decades of only accepting exact change, every one of the bus company's 1,600 buses now accepts contactless payments. Passengers only have to tap their card and the machine works out the exact cost.

Managing director of National Express West Midlands Tom Stables said: "Now our customers won't even have to work out what ticket they need. They can just tap a bank card on the reader and it will work out the fare for them. The first tap pays for one trip. Then, however many more trips you make that day, you will never be charged more than an adult day ticket."

Care home becomes private residence

A FORMER care home will be turned into a single residence, after planners gave the green light. The plans are to turn the former Dell Care Home, in Monument Avenue, Stourbridge, into one single dwelling. Dudley Council has approved the plans with conditions.

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Trust aims to recover £20k after over paying

MORE than £175,000 has been overpaid to employees who have left Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust in the last three years.

A Freedom of Information request showed that 105 overpayments were made to employees from the Trust between 2015 and 2018 – totalling £175,092.37. Of the overpayments made to the ex-employees, £154,467.90 has been recovered but £20,624.47 is still outstanding.

Chief executive of the Dudley trust, Diane Wake, said they are still in process of recovering some of the money.

In the financial year of 2015/2016, 31 overpayments were made to employees totalling £60,828.78, which has since all been recovered. The following year, 2016/2017, there was 33 overpayments made to the value of £48,539.86 – with £13,545.50 still outstanding. In 2017/2018 there was 41 overpayments of £65,723.73, with £7,078.97 yet to be paid back.

Mrs Wake said: "All staff who have an overpayment of salary, whether they are still on the payroll or have left the trust, are invoiced for the overpayment. The debt for each member of staff is monitored and recovered by the finance team as per the debt recovery processes for the trust. Staff pay the debt in full or in instalments, depending on personal circumstances.

"Overpayment can occur for a number of reasons."

Tenants can join online home swap

TENANTS wanting to move can now sign up to a free online home-swap scheme – and search from thousands of properties across the country.

Dudley Council recently joined the national HomeSwapper scheme, the UK's largest online mutual exchange service for social housing tenants.

It means Dudley's tenants, who want to move and remain in social rented accommodation, can now register for free and search for a potential new home in the borough or further afield. There are currently 500,000 tenants registered nationwide.

Last year 58 Dudley tenants chose to swap their home with seven relocating outside of the borough. To register for free, visit www.homeswapper.co.uk.

Acoustic concert

SINGER-SONGWRITER Ian Prowse is to play an acoustic concert in Stourbridge. The Liverpudlian musician performs at Katie Fitzgerald's on October 21 at 8pm. Tickets £10.

Jobs at risk in furniture firm collapse

Ultra Furniture on the Pensnett Estate

MORE than 150 employees could lose their jobs after a furniture-making company collapsed on losing a major contract.

Ultra Furniture on the Pensnett Estate, Dudley, which has supplied upholstery retailers and high-street brands for 30 years, has gone into administration. The news comes two weeks after it shut without notice 24 hours after Tesco revealed it was closing its Tesco Direct non-food website.

Around 70 per cent of Ultra's business came from the supermarket's general merchandise sideline, which shuts next month. The news was broken to shocked workers by executive chairman Joel Rosenblatt in an end-of-shift meeting last month. It is the second time in as many years that the firm has been plunged into difficulties after losing a big customer. In March 2016, it was forced to downsize, making 84 workers redundant, following the loss of furniture giant DFS.

Ultra was taken over in a £100,000 pre-pack administration deal that saved the remaining 116 jobs. Later that year the business was bought by Helium Miracle 124, which also owns Buoyant Upholstery, the UK's largest independent furniture manufacturer.

Machinist James Street, aged 25, of Wordsley, said: "It's not the company's fault that Tesco Direct is closing but they've given up without a fight."

Administrator Steven Muncaster said: "The directors are clear that at this stage the business as it currently stands cannot continue to trade. While we are continuing to market the business with the aim of finding a buyer, we have to stress that this is a hugely challenging market undergoing consolidation and cost pressures."

Heroes tell of pride over Queen's birthday awards

EXTRAORDINARY people across Dudley borough have been honoured and celebrated in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

A volunteer blood bike rider David Pearce from Cradley Heath said he was 'absolutely stunned' when he heard he had received a BEM (British Empire Medal).

The 44-year-old father is a trustee and volunteer rider for Midland Freewheelers Blood Bikes Charity and was granted the honour for voluntary and charitable services to healthcare.

David said: "It's absolutely fantastic. It's still taking a while to sink in."

Vital

As well as his vital work transporting blood, medication, breast milk and chemotherapy drugs, David is also operations manager at Birmingham Criminal Justice Centre, a coach to the under 14s Old Halesonians rugby team and a dog foster carer.

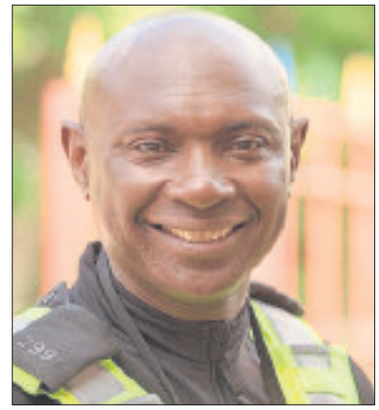
Nurse Katharine Bird from Stourbridge was also honoured, and said she was 'delighted and extremely proud' to receive an MBE (Member of the British Empire).

The 35-year-old works for Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and was honoured for the work she has done to help improve the lives of vulnerable young women. Katharine said: "This was totally unexpected. My aim is to ensure that the young people in my care have a positive experience of mental health services and that they are supported through their journey on the way to recovery. I dedicate this award to everyone in our team and to the young people that we care for. Seeing the young people make progress is the reward in itself."

PC Hubert 'Hughie' Treasure, aged 50 from Dudley, has been awarded an MBE for his work with young people. PC Treasure has been a young persons officer in Sandwell for four years.

Sylvia Holmes, of Stourbridge, chief executive officer of Economic Growth Solution, received an MBE for services to the economy .Historian Terry Price, age 79, was awarded a BEM for his services to his community. Mr Price was the driving force behind the stone tribute to 1940s actress Madeleine Carroll, who was born locally, in West Bromwich.

Bloodbike volunteer rider David Pearce



PC Hughie Treasure helps young people

Nurse Katharine Bird from Stourbridge

Black Country historian Terry Price

NEWS IN BRIEF

£37,000 is raised by hospice lottery

MORE than £37,000 has been raised for Mary Stevens Hospice through its weekly lottery.

Thousands of tickets have been snapped up for the hospice summer draw, which gives players the chance to win up to £5,000.

The lottery helps to raise money for the hospice, which serves Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen.

Lottery manager Diane Moore said: "Our lottery players make such a wonderful contribution to the hospice each week and our care simply wouldn't be possible without each and every one of them. This draw is always a huge source of excitement."

A second assisted living centre opens

AN assisted living centre has been officially opened in Quarry Bank for people with disabilities and health issues by Dudley Council adult care boss Councillor Nicolas Barlow.

The centre, in Cider Avenue, will provide people with access to information about equipment and support for the home. The one-stop shop for advice and information has rooms designed to replicate a traditional home for people trying out equipment that helps with independent living.

The centre is the second in the borough with the other in Coseley.

Beth, aged 10, has the write stuff

A YOUNGSTER from Dudley has been named a regional winner in the National Young Writers' Award.

Ten-year-old Beth Bayliss, from Withymoor Primary School, Brierley Hill, wrote 'Turbine Trouble' based on the theme of 'heroes'.

The competition invited children from across the UK to write a 500-word story about 'heroesl. The competition, organised by Explore Learning, is now in its tenth year and this year's judge was best-selling children's author David Walliams. Now Beth goes through to the final.

St John Ambulance leaders win accolade

ST JOHN Ambulance volunteers in the Black Country surprised their leaders with two awards.

The volunteers in Brierley Hill gave a party to Steve and Jenny Garratt at the team's weekly meeting.

Two awards were issued for the leaders' work supporting the charity's 22 badgers and 38 cadets.

St John Ambulance mascot Bertie Badger was on hand for celebratory hugs.

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COUNTY NEWS

Comic Rob takes charity ball helm

BUSINESSES are being urged to snap up tickets for a gala ball in Birmingham raising money for the NSPCC.

Comedian Rob Deering has been revealed as the host of this year's NSPCC Laughter Ball, which takes place on November 2 at the ICC.

Rob Deering

Rob, whose tours and appearances on TV and radio have won him a dedicated following, will compere the event. Last year's ball raised £57,000 for the charity.

Single tickets or tables of 10 are available for the ball, which starts at 6.30pm. Call 0121 227 7578 or midlandsappeals@nspcc.org.uk.

University climbs up league table

A NUMBER of courses at Birmingham City University have improved their ranking in a league table.

Several courses have risen up the Guardian's annual university league tables.

The university's acting course, housed in the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, is now ranked as the UK's third best course after moving up from fourth in last year's table. Elsewhere, nursing and midwifery climbed to 18th place nationally, almost halving its previous position of 30 in the table, while the education course now sits in 17th position and is the highest ranked of any West Midlands institution.

Date for hearing on ex-Villa player

A PRE-INQUEST hearing into the death of former Aston Villa footballer Dalian Atkinson will take place in October. It was due to be held last week but will now take place on October 3 at Shirehall in Shrewsbury.

Mr Atkinson died after being shot with a Taser outside his father's house in Trench on August 15, 2016.

The striker was best known for his solo goal against Wimbledon in 1992, which won Match of the Day's Goal of the Season award.

Orchestra set to play classics at the Cornbow

PEOPLE are being invited to attend an evening of classical music. Halesowen Orchestra are performing a host of classical pieces at Cornbow Hall on July 7 from 7.30pm until 9.30pm to entertain lovers of the genre.

Tickets cost £10 per person and can be purchased on the door, or to secure seats in advance and guarantee a seat, by calling 01210 550956.

Dedicated service rewarded by Queen

Positive Participation provides mental health help

Members and coaches of Priory Park Boxing Club

Manor Farm Community Association

Committed volunteers earn royal recognition

MORE than a dozen groups have received royal recognition for their voluntary work.

The organisations across the Black Country and Staffordshire were honoured for their commitment and dedication with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Among the recipients was the **Beacon Centre for the Blind**, in Sedgley. Chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "The gift that our volunteers give to people every week by donating their time and energy really is fantastic."

Julie Wilson, bereavement services manager at Wolverhampton's **Compton Care**, said she was proud of its volunteers. "We are over the moon their hard work has been recognised in this way," she said.

The Staffordshire Police Cadets Service was rewarded for its guidance scheme for 13-to-17-year-olds. Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis said: "The cadet scheme would not be possible without volunteers."

Wolverhampton Wheelers Club president Robin Kyte said of its award: "The club would simply not exist without those who give their most precious resources – their time and passion."

Other winners: **Spotlight Youth Productions**, Brownhills; **Positive Participation**, providing specialist Asian mental health services in Wolverhampton; **Manor Farm Community Association**, Walsall; **Stourbridge Pastors**; **Midlands Langar Seva Society**, Walsall; **Burntwood & District Community First Responders**; **Rugeley & District Community First Responders**; **Priory Park Boxing Club**, Dudley.

Beacon Centre for the Blind's 'fantastic' team

Wolverhampton Wheelers freely give their time

Spotlight Youth Productions

Staffordshire Police Cadets Service

A Compton Care colour run

Firms are among best for growth of exports

THREE companies in the Black Country have made it into a list of the top 200 in the UK for fastest growth of international sales.

The ninth annual Sunday Times HSBC International Track 200 league table ranks Britain's mid-market private companies.

This year 21 companies headquartered in the Midlands have made the table. Their international sales have grown by an average of 62 per cent a year over the last two years to a total of £1.3 billion and together they now employ more than 10,600 people.

Dudley's Boss Design, which employs 265, has risen from a ranking of 154th in 2017 to 119th.

The office furniture manufacturer has seen growth of 42 per cent with international sales of £13.8 million out of £41.4m in total for 2016-2017. It has designed seating and tables for Etihad's airport lounges around the world

Metal product manufacturer Hadley Group in Smethwick is a new entrant in 164th place with growth of 32 per cent.

The company that employs 603 had international sales of £45.8m out of a total of £127.7m in 2016-2017.

Its products will be used in the construction of zero-carbon Masdar City in Abu Dhabi.

Sauce maker Panesar Foods in Tipton is also a new entrant in 186th with growth of 28 per cent.

The company, which employs 178, produces 12,000 tons of sauces a year. International sales amounted to £3m our of £28m in total for 2016-2017.

Guided tours of historic venue

PEOPLE can take a look behind the scenes at Himley Hall. A season of guided tours kicks off next month.

Visitors can look around rooms not usually open to the public with the extensive guided tours taking in the servants' quarters and cellars, the butler's sitting room and the Earl of Dudley's bedrooms. Also on view will be the refurbished north wing complete with art deco style swimming pool room and cinema bar.

The 90-minute tours start at 7.15pm and 7.30pm on July 10, 12 and 18, and August 2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30. Cost is £8 per person.

There are 24 places available each evening with each tour accommodating up to 12 people.Call 01384 817817 or visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk

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Cancer targets at risk

HEALTH staff at Russells Hall Hospital have been battling 'unprecedented' demand for cancer services.

The number of patients attending for cancer treatment has put the hospital at risk of missing cancer targets.

The problems in dealing with demand at the hospital have been compounded by staff sickness.

The pressure has led to concern among health chiefs at the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, with fears it could hamper its ability to meet key cancer targets.

One in five cancer patients did not start treatment within the 62-day target of being referred during April, the latest figures available.

Hospital bosses said they would look at expanding capacity to try to ease pressure.

A report to board members said: "The trust had seen unprecedented demand. There were also issues with consultants' illness, bereavement leave and specialist nurse absence.

"A number of key actions were being put in place. The chief operating officer confirmed that the trust was looking at what extra capacity could be provided to meet demand."

Diane Wake, the chief executive of the trust, said: "Cancer services cover multiple specialties. We track our patients through the system to ensure patients with an urgent GP referral are seen within 14 days."

Pensioner is set upon by burglar

A MAN in his 90s was attacked in his own home by a burglar in Coseley.

The victim was pushed to the ground after answering the door to his house in Parklands Road. The attacker told him his water pressure needed checking before then assaulting him at around 11.45am on Monday, June 4.

The victim was taken to hospital with a hip injury and two men are believed to have searched the property before leaving empty handed.

People are also being reminded to check for ID before allowing anybody they don't know into their home. Anyone with information is urged to call 101; quoting 20DY/123991W/18.

Takeaway planned

THE former Rex Johnson & Sons jewellers in Dudley's Churchill Shopping Centre could be turned into a takeaway. The shop, off Birdcage Walk, has been empty since May 2017. A design and access statement said: "Takeaways are regarded as a main town centre use."

Bank closure 'puts trade at risk', claim

Lloyds Bank branch in Brierley Hill

BANKING giant Lloyds has been accused of contributing to the 'degeneration' of a high street by closing the last bank in Brierley Hill.

The branch is set to shut in July – despite a petition signed by more than 1,300 people. It has led to fears the closure could impact on the future of nearby businesses.

The decision follows the closure of other banks in the town in recent years, including Barclays and HSBC.

The petition was supported by traders and shoppers and it was hoped the level of support would prompt a U-turn by Lloyds. Prue Warne, from Brierley Hill, one of the campaign leaders, said she feared the loss of the bank could have a knock-on effect to the rest of the High Street. She said: "Brierley Hill High Street is degenerating on a daily basis and now we are losing the last bank on the High Street. If it closes they are knowingly adding to that degeneration."

In a letter to Lloyds, pleading with bosses not to quit the town, Ms Warne wrote: "Lower footfall in the High Street will start to impact on this market and not having a bank at all would be a huge problem for any market, with its small traders needing ongoing banking and change services."

Town councillor Zafar Islam said: "Banks bring in customers and sadly, and very seriously, the effect could be fewer people coming to the High Street."

Lloyds announced earlier this year it was to axe 49 branches nationwide with the loss of more than 300 jobs. It said in a statement: ""We do not take these decisions lightly and we are currently reviewing the letter we have received from local residents."

Speeding driver turned off lights in police chase

A DRIVER who sped through residential streets at twice the speed limit without lights in the night has been jailed for eight months.

Christopher Edwards was seen speeding along Stourbridge Road, Dudley by a police patrol at 11.20pm on April 26, a judge heard. The 30-year-old then spotted he was being tailed and careered into the distance in a puff of smoke, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"He realised the police were following him, put his foot on the accelerator and quickly drove away at far in excess of the 40mph limit," said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The Ford Fiesta went past Russells Hall Hospital before turning into residential streets where the defendant turned off the vehicle's lights and sped down Tennyson Road and other streets at twice the 30mph limit.

The chase soon became so hazardous the pursuing police car gave up in nearby Chapel Street because of the danger to other road users, the court heard.

Helicopter

But a police helicopter saw the Fiesta stop at a house in Fairgreen Gardens, Brierley Hill, and directed officers to the scene where they blocked his car bumper-to-bumper.

He was arrested and inquiries revealed the Fiesta had been stolen four months earlier. It is unclear how he got the vehicle and he did not face any charges in connection with the theft.

Mrs Kam Shergill, defending, said Edwards drove away from the police because he did not have a valid driving licence.

She continued: "He panicked and the situation spiralled out of control. He is filled with remorse."

The defendant from Malvern Crescent, Holly Hall, who had four previous convictions, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and having neither licence nor insurance.

He was given an eight month prison term, banned from driving for three years and will then have to pass an extended test before being allowed back behind the wheel. "

Tech success at business awards

Thomas Dudley Foundry took home the coveted award for best use of technology, presented by Altodigital

THE business community across the Black Country came together for the Express & Star Business Awards 2018.

There was also a boost for charity with more than £2,000 raised by donations on the night for the Midland Freewheelers blood bikes group.

More than 400 people dressed to impress in black tie and glamorous frocks at the Wolverhampton Racecourse. With 11 awards to be distributed, compere Alan Dedicoat – TV's voice of Strictly Come Dancing and the National Lottery – kept things moving.

Thomas Dudley Foundry, founded in 1920 and based at Birmingham New Road, Dudley, took home the coveted award for best use of technology.

Petford Group, which has specialist toolmaking and injection moulding factories in Dudley and Lye, triumphed in the small to medium-sized business category.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Top lawyer retires after four decades

A TOP lawyer is set to retire after more than 40 years in the profession.

Richard Price, son of the late Eric Price, a former Justices' Clerk of Halesowen and Stourbridge, is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. He began training in the late 1970s and was admitted as a solicitor in 1982. He has specialised in wills, trusts, probate and the administration of estates, power of attorney, other court protection work and the law relating to people with learning disabilities.

Mr Price joined Thursfields Solicitors in 2013 when the company opened its office in Halesowen and then specialised in conveyancing.

Pupils do battle in maths contest

YOUNG mathematicians from across the borough will do battle in the Dudley Maths Championship

The annual Primary Dudley Inter-School Mathematics Championships is being held at Saltwells EDC on June 20. Pupils from 23 primary schools take part.

The competition is split into two age groups – Years 3 and 4 who are seven to nine-year-olds, and Years 5 and 6, nine to 11-year-olds.

Councillor Angus Lees, for children's services, said: "All of the heats were very keenly contested."

Two wanted on slavery offences

TWO men are wanted by police in connection with slavery offences.

Police want to trace Adam Brzezinski, aged 25, and Dawid Kasperowicz, 28, for numerous bail offences. They were originally arrested for conspiracy to commit slavery offences in Sandwell and Dudley in 2017.

The pair are known to have links to the Black Country and also the Ilford area of London. Anyone who has seen either of the men or know where they are staying is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Student on shortlist for national award

A HALESOWEN College pupil has been nominated for a national student of the year competition.

Leon Wilson, a 17-year-old former pupil at Bristnall Hall Academy, in Oldbury, has been put forward for the BTEC Student of the Year by the IT department for his work studying the BTEC level three IT course.

The annual BTEC Awards honour and celebrate outstanding students and their achievements nationally.

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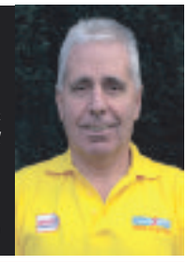

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Not just a store but a part of our fabric

FAREWELL to Beatties, then. It seems incredible to even write these words. Just 15 years ago, that would have been inconceivable. Back then, Beatties was not just a store, it was part of the fabric of the Midlands, a throwback to a bygone age when shopping was all about personal service and individuality.

And then House of Fraser came along. The Beatties name, which carried so much weight in the Midlands, was casually discarded on all but two of the stores because it "lacked resonance" with the corporate bods in London. The famous restaurant, which pulled in so many customers on a Saturday lunchtime, became a self-service cafe. Its quirky and distinctive clothing ranges were replaced with drab own-brand lines pretty much the same as in any other chainstore.

In short, they bought Grace Brothers. And turned it into BHS.

The sad thing is that recently Beatties showed signs of getting some of its mojo back. Just little touches, such as the man on the door in the top hat. It made Beatties feel like, well, Beatties again.

It looks like being too little too late, with the eye-watering business rates being a major factor in Beatties imminent demise. Reportedly, it had been paying something like £500,000 every year on the Wolverhampton store, which now seems a bit like killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Of course, business rates are set by national government, it still remains the case that an empty building won't generate much for the public coffers.

Perhaps it is time to re-think the way business rates are calculated. How can it be right that our beleaguered towns and cities, which are the lifeblood of cohesive communities, are being decimated by crippling rates, while out-of-town retail parks and online-shopping warehouses, are let off practically scot-free?

Surely these out-of-the way locations, which lead to more car journeys and heavy-lorry movements, place more of a strain on our infrastructure – and indeed the environment – than the traditional high street?

There may have once been an argument, in the days when a prime town centre location was a licence to print money, for charging extra in rates. But as out-of-town warehouses suck the life out of our towns and cities, this surely no longer holds water.

It is time for the internet giants and the out-of-town retailers to pay their way, and give our town centres a bit of respite.

Otherwise, a generation from now, we might look back at what we have lost. And wonder how we ever allowed this to happen.

Leaving out one word can be deeply misleading

2018 abortion referendum – I hope historians give full credit to Father Ted

No croaker – Scottish actor Daisy Haggard in real life actually talks normally

Meera Syal – right decision to study drama rather than medicine as her parents wanted

Why I'm against language trend

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I'VE no idea what some folk have against the word "against" but it seems to be passing out of our language. The trend began in the United States where defendants routinely "appeal the verdict" or "protest the legislation." Over here, I found a newspaper report about a controversial forestry plan where local people "protested the felling."

IT gets worse. A radio report on the BBC told us about activists "demonstrating land seizures" when they were actually demonstrating against land seizures. Leaving out one little word is not only lazy but can be deeply misleading. I am very much against it. Or in modern usage, I am very much it.JOB opportunities in the movies. The interminable credits for the time-travel romp Outlander (Sony Pictures TV) reveal that the production team includes a "dimmer board operator." If they paid better wages they might get a brighter one.

I WROTE recently about the hazards of 'smart' devices scanning the contents of our fridges and suggesting tasty menus using whatever we have in stock. My fear was that 'artificial intelligence' (now, there's an oxymoron) may not understand that we humans keep some non-food items in the fridge, including contact-lens solution and suchlike. A reader draws us into grimmer territory: "I currently have a tube of ointment for an anal fissure. Recipe suggestions, please?" Offhand, I can only think of wince pies.

THE aftermath from Bishop Curry's sermon at the Royal Wedding rumbles on. A reader takes me to task for being underwhelmed and encourages me to obey the bit about loving everybody, including my neighbours and my enemies. It has always struck me, even in my chapel-going days, that love was rather a powerful and extreme emotion to lavish upon all and sundry. If you love your enemy what are you supposed to feel for your parents, your spouse or your children? I love my nearest and dearest. I respect, tolerate, admire or dislike the rest of humanity, depending entirely on how they behave.

"THERE are many more people alive today because I didn't become a doctor." Writer and actor Meera Syal on her decision to study drama at university rather than medicine as her parents wanted.

HAVE you ever thought what a happier world this would be if we were all tucked up in bed at 10pm? The recent crop of deeply defamatory tweets and texts horrifying America were mostly sent in the wee small hours and have been blamed variously on medication or tiredness. No surprises there. Most of the vitriolic messages that plonk into my in-box are sent after midnight and sometimes carry tell-tale hints of being booze or medicine-related. Nothing brings out the fearless critic in Joe Public quite like four pints of lager and a nasal spray.

I WAS astonished to find 'zombie knives' on open sale on Google News pages referring to the Croydon knife attack. I left it 24 hours – plenty of time to take down such adverts – and looked again. This time, the two genuine zombie knives were joined by an advert for a £2.79 'Blood-stained screamer knife'. It turns out to be an accessory toy for Halloween. So that's all right, then.

A YOUGOV survey of 20,000 people found that youngsters are less likely to feel proud of being English than older people. I'm surprised because today's over-60s grew up in an age when Englishness was barely mentioned. Back then, we were all British. Then Scottish nationalism kicked off and the reaction south of the border was a sort of Englishness that goes with tattoos, football and owning unpleasant dogs. Being British was always wiser, kinder and more inclusive than being English and there is life, and pride, in old GB yet.

IRELAND voted for abortion because Ireland no longer does what the Catholic Church tells it to do. That change is partly due to scandals involving dodgy priests and sadistic nuns but also to a rare comic creation who, on a weekly basis, mercilessly mocked the institution. When the historians write about the 2018 abortion referendum, I hope they give full credit to Father Ted.

SO. Having gotten used to one American import, namely the starting of sentences with 'so', a reader points out a new irritation, namely the female frog-croak. As he puts it: "It is the Americanism of drifting the end of sentences into a deep croak. Our youngsters are taking this on board at an ever increasing rate. 'Can't argue with that. Yet some Brits must share the blame. A croaker-in-chief is Myra, the humourless American head of comedy in Episodes (BBC2), and yet she is played by the Scottish actor Daisy Haggard who in real life talks normally.

TALKING POINT

Goal? Oh no I just popped out for a lolly!

IS it really four years since the last one? Yes it's the World Cup – again! This time, as much has been said about the off-field developments as how good, or bad, any particular country will fare on the pitch.

Which is interesting, as it occurred to me that the more World Cups I live through, the less I remember about the football. I recalled a number of occasions which stand out, going all the way back to England's finest moment – 1966.

Yes, I was as excited as anyone by the extra-time victory over West Germany, and yes I breathed a sigh of relief that our ancient Ekco television stayed on all the way through the tournament.

But England's quarter-final match is notable for the fact that on hearing the chimes of the ice cream van down the street, I nipped out for an ice lolly, taking advantage of the fact that although he had been sent off for dissent, Argentina's Antonio Rattin refused to leave the pitch. No problem, Rattin was still arguing with the ref when I returned. He finally gave in NINE minutes after being dismissed.

Sixteen years later, timing was crucial again. Having gone out for the day while on holiday in Wales, I was unaware I would get back to the caravan after England had kicked off against France.

Imagine my surprise, when popping into a farm for a pint of milk, to be greeted by "Such excitement, England have scored!" And that from a farmer's wife with the broadest Welsh accent I've ever heard. It turned out Bryan Robson had scored after 27 seconds to send England on their way to a famous 3-1 victory.

Then in 1990, the whistle could not come soon enough – the final between Argentina and West Germany, again while I was on holiday, this time in the Yorkshire Dales.

The reason? England had been knocked out in a semi-final penalty shoot-out by West Germany and my only way of dealing with the hurt was to turn my back on the TV during the final.

Fast forward to 2010 and while changing trains on the way back from a family function, I became aware that although I was listening to the commentary at ear-splitting volume on my personal radio, and England were seconds away from going through to the knockout stage, everyone around me carried on as if they'd never heard of the World Cup. Perhaps it was something to do with my being at Edinburgh's Haymarket station!

So, this time, whatever's happening on the pitch, don't hesitate to go and do some shopping or even just turn the TV off. Chances are, you won't miss a thing, but there again . . .

STEVE PARLETT

Recalling torrential rainfall of the 60s

THE last week or so of May 2018 produced a sequence of torrential rainfalls across the Midlands.

Spring, with the average rainfall, is the driest quarter of the year. However the last three Mays of the 1960s were far and wide of one of the wettest months of their entire years –1967 tripled its normal rainfall, 1968 doubled its defined expectation of rain and 1969 with the persistent anomaly had triple the usual supply of precipitation.

On one Friday evening up to over two inches of rain descended in the vicinity of Stourbridge backed up by lightning and thunder. Some of the intense showers were extremely localised which led to short distance contrasts.

One day in that memorable May I was just about to step on a bus at Brierley Hill to go to Stourbridge when a brief but very intense shower close to noon asserted its drenching contents and the gutters were flowing like broad rivers.

Within less than three minutes I had travelled the few hundred yards to Silver End where the gutters and pavements were completely dry.

There was no sign of the threat of any rain in the vicinity. As regards the wettest day on record for Stourbridge for any time of the year that is ranked as the May 31, 1924 when 3.73 inches of rain fell and a weir upon the Stourbridge canal was broken by the onslaught of the resultant torrents. June 1924 opened with widespread flooding along the river Severn which affected agriculture in many adjacent fields.

We can, however, thank those prolific spring downpours for the enhanced greenery of the countryside.

ALASTAIR MACLEAN
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
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EMAIL
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Parents must set example

AS a 'taycher' (as they say round here) with 40 odd years experience in primary, secondary and special education, I find it both annoying and ironic that the two problems most frequently laid at the door of schools – littering and bullying – are the two issues schools spend most time, effort and money striving to eliminate.

Peter Rhodes, fresh from his holiday on the bonnie litter-strewn banks of Loch Lomond, questions how many hours it takes in the classroom to convey the message: "Don't drop that". His question, displaying both unwarranted sarcasm and the classic layman's ignorance, would be more pertinent if the word 'classroom' were replaced with the word 'home'.

The most effective tutor is example. In all my years I can honestly say that I never saw a taycher drop litter but I doubt very much whether the same could be said of parents.

MR B WILLIAMS
Wordsley

Brexit date looks wildly optimistic

IT is now becoming obvious that Brexit negotiations are not going well. Leave voters understood we would get a completely clean break from the EU in March 2019. It is clear this date is wildly optimistic.

Mrs May was told at a meeting with the Japanese ambassador and some of his country's leading businessmen that if the UK walked away with a no-deal, and their companies being forced to pay tariffs on exports to the EU – affecting their profitability – then it was likely these companies would move their production facilities from the UK to the continent. As they directly employ 130,000 in the UK, but are responsible for providing many more jobs in the supply chain, the effect on our economy could be disastrous.

PETER SIMPSON
Dudley

I try best to by-pass the by-pass

THERE are plans for a bypass around the Black Country.

If it ever happens, can I please ask that the architects/planners that are chosen not be the ones who made the Brierley Hill bypass.

We were told it would keep Brierley Hill moving. I have never seen a more pathetic attempt at causing havoc – seven sets of traffic lights, a yellow box that nearly everyone blocks, a 'No Left Turn' that is disregarded.

Furthermore, this bypass must now have the most dangerous junction in the country, where turning right and going straight on causes so much frustration and near-misses. It's a wonder serious injury or death have not taken place.

'Keep Brierley Hill moving', what a laugh. I try my best to bypass the bypass.

PETE LOWE
Brierley Hill

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Work under way

Tram work award is 'laughable'

A PROJECT to replace tram tracks that caused businesses to close down and cost others lost income has been given an award.

Dozens of firms had six months of misery with lane closures on the A41 Bilston Road, as Midland Metro carried out the work.

Now it has emerged that the scheme has been given a top industry award for its communications with businesses during the project.

The Institution of Civil Engineers also handed an award to the Rugeley flood defence scheme, which at £5.2m cost nearly three times more than planned.

The works landed recognition in the 'large projects' category. By the time the one-and-a-half mile stretch reopened in December two firms, The Grafix Workshop and Smoke Busters, had gone bust while others were pushed to the brink due to loss of trade.

Bosses of firms affected by the works have branded the award 'laughable', with one describing it as 'an insult' to businesses that struggled during the scheme.

Slow down? No way, at 64 Lionel's just getting started

IRONMAN, lifeguard, marathon runner – Lionel Spittle is no ordinary grandfather. With his 65th birthday fast approaching, he is far from slowing down in his retirement.

Instead he has set himself the challenge of swimming 65 lengths, running 65 stadium laps, and cycling 65 miles in less than 6.5 hours on July 1.

His mammoth mission, which he called '65 Challenge', was originally in a bid to raise £650 for The Brain Tumour Charity, after losing his wife Linda to it five years ago.

But he smashed his target within weeks and is fast on the way to raising £2,000.

Proud

The retired sales manager from Tettenhall said he hoped his late wife would be 'proud' at the amount of money he had raised for charity.

Lionel said: "She would be proud of me for raising awareness. But she'd probably think I was mad for doing this.

"People, especially young people, think 65 is ancient. When I was young I thought 45 was old, let alone 65. But that's obviously not the case

By Megan Archer

now, we are living longer, living healthier."

Lionel, a part time lifeguard at Central Baths, is no stranger to exercise. He runs and swims at least three times a week and in the past has competed in nine marathons and three Iron Man Triathlon challenges, which consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride and a marathon – a 26.22-mile run – raced without a break.

On July 1 Lionel will start by swimming 65 lengths – totalling just less than a mile – at Central Baths, cycling 65 miles through the Staffordshire countryside, and then finishing by running 65 laps of Aldersley Stadium – just more than 16 miles.

Lionel Spittle speeds along to his next mammoth challenge

Winter takes toll with 10k potholes

A LONG winter has left road maintenance teams with 10,000 potholes to tackle across one county. An extra month of wintry conditions means there are 20 per cent more potholes on Staffordshire's roads compared to last year, county councillors have been told.

But council leader Philip Atkins vowed that the authority will get on top of the problem after an extra £5 million was invested in fixing weather-related potholes.

Backlog

He said: "It's very easy to forget we have had 30 more days of weather that make potholes and 30 days less to repair them. I was troubled through the beginning of April seeing roads deteriorating ever more.

"We have put extra money in this year and extra money last year to get on top of it, on top of the £50m we put in over the previous two terms, because the roads were that bad nine years ago, which everybody seems to have forgotten.

"But they are not perfect, there is more to do . Thank you to the teams that are doing the work, they are working as hard as they can."

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Neon Run is put back a week to avoid clash

MARY Stevens Hospice fundraisers have announced that the annual Neon Night Run at Himley Hall will now be on September 28, a week later than originally scheduled.

As well as being the original date penned for the Neon-themed night run which attracts more than a thousand to Himley Hall each year, September 21 is also the start date of Dubs Collective's three-day Party in the Park Volkswagen festival.

Due to the increasing scale of that event, which has had thousands of ticket sales, plus growing interest in the hospice's 80s themed Neon Night Run, both parties have decided that moving the charity fun run would be a good idea.

Pass

All runners who have already signed up to take part in the charity event are being offered a free one-day pass to the VW festival and are being advised to contact the hospice fundraising team to take advantage of that offer. Dubs Collective will also be sponsoring the Neon Night Run and have committed to working in partnership with the hospice on future events.

Hospice head of fundraising Charlotte Schofield said: "This is not a decision we've taken lightly, however, given the ever-increasing scale of both our Neon Night Run and Dubs' Party in the Park, we have decided that it is in the best interest of our supporters and their festival goers that we move back a week so that both events can flourish. Dubs Collective and Himley Hall have been collaborative and we are delighted that the organising team at Dubs Collective have become highly engaged with our work."

To sign up online, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/neon-night-run-2018

Digital aid for businesses

Google coach Prab Chadha with Katie McWhannell, who runs a drama academy, web designer Stephen Wall from Stourbridge and Michael Worth from Dudley, who works for Veolia

A POP-up service designed to help businesses learn digital skills took place in Stourbridge.

King Edward VI school hosted Google's Digital Garage.

The internet giant visited as the first stop of a UK tour, the first of its kind, offering local people free advice and coaching on digital skills to help grow their business, career and confidence. For the first time, during 'Love Your Local Market' fortnight, the training was tailored to local traders such as at Stourbridge Market to help them grow their digital presence and to reach new customers beyond their local area.

Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries and MP for Stourbridge Margot James, was among those in attendance.

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Zoo pair on the move to France

ZOO keepers have said au revoir to two monkeys who are starting a new life in France.

Black howler monkey brothers Arie and Becks, who were both born at Dudley Zoo, have gone to live at Zoo du Bassin d'Arcachon, near Bordeaux.

Dr David Beeston, the zoo's registrar and research co-ordinator, said: "The brothers were very popular at Dudley and were much photographed by visitors.

"The males could potentially join a breeding programme over there and it would be wonderful to hear they had offspring of their own one day."

They left Dudley Zoo last Wednesday and travelled to south-west France by road and ferry with a specialist animal transport firm. Black howler monkeys are known for their 'howl' call, which can be heard by up to 5km away. The primates have a special voice box and pouch in their throats that amplifies the sound.

Black Country theme pub gig

A DUDLEY pub is hosting a Black Country Day concert on July 14.

The Empty Can and More is being held at The Fellows in Broadway at 7.30pm. The Black Country Anthem will be ringing out.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Merry Hill tycoon awarded Freedom of the Borough

BUSINESS legend Roy Richardson has been made a Freeman of the Borough of Dudley at a packed mayor-making ceremony.

The 88-year-old was presented with the freedom scroll by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Taylor before around 260 people at Dudley Town Hall.

Both Mr Taylor and the out-going mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler praised Mr Richardson for his successful business career and for his work in the community – in particular his support for events such as the annual Festival of Remembrance.

By Simon Penfold

Mr Richardson, and his late twin brother Don supported the building of Dudley's Cenotaph in 2001. They underwrote fundraising efforts, offering to cover any costs over and above the money raised by the local ex-servicemen's committee.

Benches

A pair of benches were also unveiled at the Cenotaph engraved to commemorate the brothers.

Mr Richardson and his brother are best known for their redevelopment of the Round Oak Steelworks site and the surrounding land in Brierley Hill, creating the Merry Hill shopping centre and the Waterfront business park in the 1980s. They went on to create a property and business empire that is run today by his three sons – Carl, Martyn and Lee – based at Oldbury with offices on the Birchley Island.

He paid tribute to staff at the Richardson business, some of whom had worked for the company for 50 years and spoke of his honour at being the first business figure to be made a Freeman of Dudley. He was also made an Honorary Freeman of Sandwell in December.

Mr Richardson made a donation to Councillor Taylor, to launch his charity appeal for Headway Black Country, Hope Centre in Halesowen and White House Cancer Support and to Councillor Tyler towards a target of a record mayor's charity appeal total of £55,000.

Mr Richardson, Mayor Alan Taylor and scroll

Twin entrepreneurs Don and Roy Richardson in 2004

The cenotaph bench in Mr Richardon's honour

Series of events for carers

THE vital contribution made by carers will be celebrated this week with a number of events in Dudley.

Carers are being invited to walks, poetry sessions, open days, breakfast meetings and afternoon teas – to mark National Carers Week.

There will be an open day at Dudley Carers Hub, at the Queens Cross Network in Wellington Road, today (Thursday) between 10.30am and 6.30pm when carers can drop in and find out more information about support services.

Also today, from 12.30pm, carers are invited to an amble around Saltwells Nature Reserve, in Netherton.

Tomorrow (Friday) there will be a tea and chat session for carers at DY1 Centre in Stafford Street between 10am and midday. Carers are invited for a free breakfast bap and brew. To book, call (01384) 573381.

Art display at canal trust HQ

A NEW art exhibition has gone on display at Dudley Canal Trust's headquarters.

The display of paintings and prints by members of Dudley Society of Artists will run at The Portal, which is off Birmingham New Road, Dudley, until July 13.

Dudley age UK

Picture Safari Fundraiser

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An AJS motor-bike tester out on the road

The new two-wheeler display

The Viking Cycle Team in the 1950s

Percy Stallard, a pioneer of British road racing

Telling story of city's two-wheel heritage

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

TETTENHALL Transport Heritage Centre has unveiled its new two-wheeler display, thanks to help from Pallet Tracking Systems of Willenhall.

It reflects the long history of Wolverhampton in building bicycles and motorbikes, a heritage which goes back to the beginnings of both, and names like Sunbeam, AJS, Villiers, Wearwell, Hateley and Viking are included.

The metal-working skills which existed here during Victorian Times were easily adapted to making bicycles, and the trade soon flourished with, at one time, more than 80 bicycle makers.

These varied, from the huge ones, like Sunbeam and Star, to the small makers, very often at the back of bicycles shops like Dugmores, Hateleys and Fred Williams.

The whole trade was boosted by cycle racing at Molineux. Huge crowds of up to 10,000 people turned out to watch on a cycle track created in the gardens of Molineux House, which only stopped when Wolves moved over to build their new stadium on the site.

Wolverhampton's Percy Stallard then became one of the pioneers of British Road Racing. The Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycle Club is one of the oldest sporting clubs in the city, and they found a new home when Aldersley Stadium was built in the 1950s, with a cycle track around the outside.

Manufacturers returned to cycle racing after the war, with major teams operated by Viking and Wearwell, who made some of the last two-wheelers.

Perhaps it was a natural progression from bicycles to motorbikes, some of the earliest of which were just bicycles with a small engine fitted, but soon some of the greatest names in British motorcycling came from Wolverhampton.

Prizes

Every year the TT Races on the Isle of Man were the pinnacle of motorcycle races, and it was often Wolverhampton firms like Sunbeam, AJS and HRD who were vying for the top prizes, but there were many other smaller makers, like Clyno, Wolf, Diamond and Sharratt.

All the bikes at the TTHC have been donated, and they are always looking for others to add to the story of the city's two-wheel heritage.

Some of the badges with very familiar names

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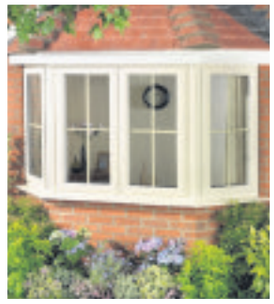

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Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Paul King, Head of April King Legal

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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Who nose if romance will blossom at zoo?

Is that a kiss? Hopes are high among zoo keepers that Bubbles, the new male anteater at Dudley, will breed with Romy

LOVE could be in the air at Dudley Zoo as a new arrival sets hearts racing.

Bubbles the anteater has staff bursting with excitement as a possible love interest for fellow resident Romy.

The friendly male arrived from Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire last week.

To begin with, Bubbles and Romy will live in separate parts of the paddock and will be introduced to each other over time if the introduction is successful.

The first step was to give the pair visual access through a mesh fence.

Zoo assistant curator Jay Haywood, said: "Introducing Bubbles to Romy will be a slow process but it is going very well so far. If things remain positive as we give them more contact we will look to put them together and hopefully they will breed in the future.

"Bubbles is smaller than Romy and has a lovely temperament. We've given him a few tickles through the mesh and he seemed to like it."

The newest recruit at Dudley Zoo will turn one year old on June 19 and the staff are planning a special celebration.

Anteaters are typically found in the tropical forests and grasslands of Central and South America, as they have no teeth they use their long tongues, which can project more than two feet, to eat up to 35,000 ants and termites a day when in the wild.

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Fashioning up help to recreate clothes shop

MUSEUM bosses wants people to fashion up memories of a popular clothes shop.

The Black Country Living Museum is recreating the Wednesbury-based women's fashion shop, E. Minett, as it was in the late 1950s, as part of its BCLM: Forging Ahead project.

Founded by Edith Dabbs Minett, the shop was known as the place to go for the best dressed ladies of Wednesbury. Edith started the business in the 1920s in the front room of the family home in Pound Road – before opening the shop at 83 Walsall Street.

Minett's was a family-run business. Edith's husband, William, managed the shop's accounts around the time of the birth of their daughter Brenda.

Brenda worked at the shop from a young age, earning three pence a week by dusting boxes and assisting with other day-to-day tasks. She became employed full-time when she left school and took over with her husband John Greenhough, and ran the business until it ceased trading in 2006.

The shop's clothes were bought on mail order from trade catalogues or from wholesalers in Birmingham. Brenda prided herself on buying garments in advance for particular customers she had in mind and who she knew would buy the item when they saw what she had chosen for them.

The Tipton Road Museum will be recreating the shop from Walsall Street, which will be set up in the late 1950s era. On opening in 2022, visitors will be able to learn the story of the post-war revolution in female fashion, as well as the changing role of women in society and the economic boom.

To help with the recreation, the museum is seeking memories and personal stories of the shop. Email collections@bclm.com or call 0121 557 9643.

The E Minett in Walsall Street, Wednesbury, which is being rebuilt

Nun better than this show

REVIEW: Sister Act the Musical presented by Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society

QUARRY Bank Musical Theatre Society brought the house down at Brierley Hill Town Hall.

Debutant Keshia Herbert wowed as Deloris Van Cartier, a sassy nightclub singer who witnesses a murder committed by her gangster boyfriend and his hoods and needs to go on the run.

Tom Robinson was in fine voice as her old pal Sweaty Eddie, a policeman, who hides her in a convent. Elysia Stretton was demure and affable as Sister Mary Robert and Natalie Baggott as Sister Mary Lazarus was the ideal scene stealing comedy nun.

Jo Tranter, Sister Mary Theresa, retained her aged character perfectly throughout.

Sheila Wood as Mother Superior was the perfect holy sister, while Carl Cook, Mike James, David Shaw and Ollie Hart-Bradford took their roles with aplomb as Curtis and his grubby little gang of sleaze ball 70s gangsters.

By Alison Norton

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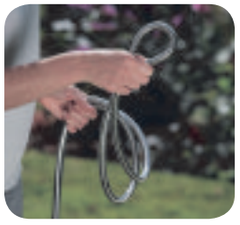
The hose comes with an eight-pattern hand-held spray nozzle which allows you to choose from full, jet, vertical, shower, soaker, cone, flat and mist options. It also has a trigger lock feature, allowing the spray nozzle to be locked into place so the user doesn't have to manually hold the trigger down. Available in a choice of four lengths to suit your garden size: 25ft, 50ft, 75ft and 100ft. The hose coils neatly away for storage and can be stored next to your tap by using our Easy Hose holder that is also available.

G2232 25ft Hose **£19.99** Was £39.99
G2233 50ft Hose **£34.99** Was £79.99
G2234 75ft Hose **£49.99** Was £99.99
G2235 100ft Hose **£74.99** Was £149.99
D8466 Easy Hose Holder **£8.99**



Electric Weed Sweeper

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SAVE £20 WAS £59.99

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The weed sweeper is designed to remove weeds between slabs, blocks, along path edges and other external surfaces. Comfortable to hold and easy to use, simply push along the edges, cracks and joints of paving or paths and the nylon or steel wire brushes supplied will get into the smallest of crevices, removing debris in an instant. The nylon brush is perfect for light vegetation and the steel brush is ideal for use on tougher debris, removing weeds without toxic chemicals or pesticides.

Other features include a built-in wheel to help you glide along edges for a more thorough sweep, a clear safety hood to protect your eyes from debris, an ample 10m (30ft) power cable, a compact design for easy storage and a 12-month warranty. Weighs 1.7kg.

G0518 Electric Weed Sweeper
G0520 Set of Spare Brushes **£9.99**
D3741 Circuit Breaker Socket **£13.99**
G0519 Grass Trimmer Head Attachment **£14.99**

Five-litre Pressure Sprayer

Only £8.99 plus £3.95 P&P

SAVE £11 WAS £19.99

Take care of your plants and clean your garden with this five-litre pressure sprayer. Suitable for use with water, insecticide, pesticide, weed killer or water soluble fertiliser, this garden tool makes the chore of spraying your garden easy. Simply fill with your chosen liquid and pump the ergonomically designed D-handle to increase the air pressure in the sprayer before use. There's a shoulder strap for comfortable operation and the specially designed lance features a fully adjustable nozzle, operated by a trigger with a locking position for continuous spray. There's also a safety valve that releases pressure from the container when it's too high, and a useful level indicator to show how much liquid remains in the tank without needing to open the sprayer. Hose length: 170cm. Dimensions: D19 x H40cm.

D8700 Five-litre Pressure Sprayer

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Only £69.99 plus £4.95 P&P

SAVE £30 WAS £99.99

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D9532 Cordless Hedge Trimmer

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.....

3. What shop in Stourbridge sells Beautiful Clothes?

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2018 WORLD CUP

Russia 2018: FIFA World Cup

JUNE 14 - JULY 15

Russia hosts the FIFA World Cup for the first time, but the lowest ranked team in the tournament faces a huge challenge to compete with the world's top footballing powers

RED AMBITION: *Russia finished fourth in 1966, as **Soviet Union**, but **Russian Federation** team has yet to qualify from group stage*

Performance by host

Group stage	2nd round / Last 16	Quarter-final	3rd / 4th	Final	Winner
1	3	4	5	2	6
2010	1982, 94, 2002	1938, 54, 70, 86	1962, 90, 2002, 06, 14	1950, 58	1930, 34, 66, 74, 78, 98

WINNING FEELING: *Victory for Germany would equal Brazil's five World Cup crowns and be first successive title win since 1962*

Brazil	*Win ratio: 67.3%*	**Tournament wins: 70**
Germany	*62.3%*	**66**
Italy*	*54.2%*	**45**
Argentina	*54.5%*	**42**
Spain	*49.2%*	**29**
France	*47.5%*	**28**
Netherlands*	*54.0%*	**27**
England	*41.9%*	**26**

*Did not qualify for World Cup 2018

Germany qualified with superlative 10-game winning streak – scoring 43 goals

Joshua Kimmich *New German star, 23, set to shine on world stage after meteoric rise to fame with Bayern Munich*

Top goalscorers: *Poland's **Robert Lewandowski** (right) and **Mohammad Al-Sahlawi** of Saudi Arabia both scored 16 goals in qualifying matches*

***Telstar 2018** Official World Cup match ball*

***Igor Akinfeev** Russia captain and veteran goalkeeper crucial to host nation's hopes – over 100 caps for his country*

Venues

- Saint Petersburg Stadium, 67,000
- Moscow: Luzhniki Stadium Capacity: 80,000 Spartak Stadium 45,000
- Yekaterinburg: Ekaterinburg Arena 35,000
- Kaliningrad Stadium 35,000
- Kazan Arena 45,000
- Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, 45,000
- Samara Arena 45,000
- Saransk: Mordovia Arena 44,000
- Volgograd Arena 45,000
- Rostov Arena 45,000
- Sochi: Fisht Olympic Stadium 48,000

Competition schedule

32 teams contest total of 64 matches, played at 12 venues, over four weeks

0 *FIFA rank at time of draw*

A

65 65 30 17

June			
14	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Moscow
15	Egypt	Uruguay	Yekaterinburg
19	Russia	Egypt	St Petersburg
20	Uruguay	Saudi Arabia	Rostov
25	Uruguay	Russia	Samara
	Saudi Arabia	Egypt	Volgograd

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June			
15	Morocco	Iran	St Petersburg
	Portugal	Spain	Sochi
20	Portugal	Morocco	Moscow
	Iran	Spain	Kazan
25	Iran	Portugal	Saransk
	Spain	Morocco	Kaliningrad

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June			
16	France	Australia	Kazan
	Peru	Denmark	Saransk
21	Denmark	Australia	Samara
	France	Peru	Yekaterinburg
26	Denmark	France	Moscow
	Australia	Peru	Sochi

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June			
16	Argentina	Iceland	Moscow
	Croatia	Nigeria	Kaliningrad
21	Argentina	Croatia	Nizhny
22	Nigeria	Iceland	Volgograd
26	Nigeria	Argentina	St Petersburg
	Iceland	Croatia	Rostov

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WALLCHART

Second stage

June — Sochi
30 A1 — B2
Kazan
30 C1 — D2
July — Samara
2 E1 — F2
Rostov
2 G1 — H2

Quarter-finals

July 6 — Nizhny
July 6 — Kazan

Semi-final

July 10 — St Petersburg

Opened in 1956 as **Central Lenin Stadium,** flagship stadium of Communist Russia – hosted 1980 Summer Olympics and Champions League final in 2008

Third-place play-off

July 14 — St Petersburg

FINAL

July 15 — Moscow

Luzhniki Stadium
Capacity: 80,000

Semi-final

July 11 — Moscow

Reopened in Nov 2017 after four-year, €350m renovation to expand roof structure, increase capacity and preserve iconic Soviet facade

Quarter-finals

July 7 — Sochi
July 7 — Samara

Second stage

July — Moscow
1 B1 — A2
Nizhny
1 D1 — C2
St Petersburg
3 F1 — E2
Moscow
3 H1 — G2

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

				Host nation
1930	Uruguay	4-2	Argentina	Uruguay
1934	Italy	2-1	Czechoslovakia	Italy
1938	Italy	4-2	Hungary	France
1950	Uruguay	2-1	Brazil	Brazil
1954	West Germany	3-2	Hungary	Switzerland
1958	Brazil	5-2	Sweden	Sweden
1962	Brazil	3-1	Czechoslovakia	Chile
1966	England	4-2	West Germany	England
1970	Brazil	4-1	Italy	Mexico
1974	West Germany	2-1	Netherlands	West Germany
1978	Argentina	3-1	Netherlands	Argentina
1982	Italy	3-1	West Germany	Spain
1986	Argentina	3-2	West Germany	Mexico
1990	West Germany	1-0	Argentina	Italy
1994	Brazil	0-0 (3-2 pens)	Italy	USA
1998	France	3-0	Brazil	France
2002	Brazil	2-0	Germany	Korea/Japan
2006	Italy	1-1 (5-3 pens)	France	Germany
2010	Spain	1-0	Netherlands	South Africa
2014	Germany	1-0	Argentina	Brazil

Source: FIFA — Pictures: Getty Images — © GRAPHIC NEWS

Top two from each group progress to knockout stage

If scores level after 90 minutes, knockout stage matches go into extra-time. Matches remaining level decided on penalties

E

June			
17	Costa Rica	Serbia	Samara
	Brazil	Switzerland	Rostov
22	Brazil	Costa Rica	St Petersburg
	Serbia	Switzerland	Kaliningrad
27	Serbia	Brazil	Moscow
	Switzerland	Costa Rica	Nizhny

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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F

June			
17	Germany	Mexico	Moscow
18	Sweden	South Korea	Nizhny
23	South Korea	Mexico	Rostov
	Germany	Sweden	Sochi
27	Mexico	Sweden	Yekaterinburg
	South Korea	Germany	Kazan

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G

June			
18	Belgium	Panama	Sochi
	Tunisia	England	Volgograd
23	Belgium	Tunisia	Moscow
24	England	Panama	Nizhny
28	England	Belgium	Kaliningrad
	Panama	Tunisia	Saransk

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June			
19	Colombia	Japan	Saransk
	Poland	Senegal	Moscow
24	Japan	Senegal	Yekaterinburg
	Poland	Colombia	Kazan
28	Japan	Poland	Volgograd
	Senegal	Colombia	Samara

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No more quick fix on transport, say bosses

TRANSPORT bosses have insisted they no longer want to use a quick 'sticky plaster approach' when it comes to dealing with congested motorways in the West Midlands.

Leading business figures met at Little Pot Transport in Oldbury last week to discuss future plans for the region's roads, after it was revealed transport group Midlands Connect is considering building a new 40-mile motorway around the Black Country.

The 'Western Strategic Route' would connect the M5 Junction 4a at Bromsgrove with Junction 2 of the M54, near the i54 business park.

It's an idea that has been met with concern by many – especially environmental groups who claim the motorway would plough straight through greenbelt countryside.

Black Country Chamber chairman Corin Crane, Maria Machancoses, director of Midlands Connect and Julian Pottinger, director of Little Pot Transport

Comprehensive

But director of Midlands Connect Maria Machancoses said issues concerning the region's roads cannot be ignored for much longer.

Ms Machancoses said: "One third of the national freight goes through the Midlands so we need to look at this in a much more balanced, comprehensive way. We need to do far more work, more analysis, and look at wider economic benefits and environment benefits.

"But we've got to do the work, we cannot just ignore things. We need to look at long term. What we're hoping to do is give certainty to everyone in the Midlands. We need to make sure that we look at a wide range of issues. This is all about giving a clear message, a clear vision to the world out there that we can no longer use a sticky plaster approach to resolving the problems of our motorways and congestion."

The report says the route would offer 'the biggest benefit' for improving journey times and supporting economic growth, and could reduce traffic on stretches of the M6 and M5 by one fifth.

Chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Corin Crane agreed something 'ambitious' needed to be done to solve some of the congestion problems the region was facing. He said: "Look at the Black Country – we are 36,000 businesses crammed into a small area. We move stuff and we make stuff. We've got twice the national average of manufacturing companies, huge amounts of food and drink companies and we have to get our stuff to ports and to businesses all across the area – and that's what makes the Midlands so incredible. We're right smack middle of the country.

Julian Pottinger, of Little Pot Transport said he thought the Western Strategic Route was a 'good idea' and said it would provide relief for the Black Country.

He said: "When one road becomes congested due to road works or congestion it just snarls up the rest of the region, there's no spare capacity."

Thinking inside box to help the homeless

From left, Chloe Williams, aged 16, Lewis Brett, 17 and Tamara Nock, 18, with the gift boxes for the homeless

KIND students have created gift boxes to give to homeless people. The students from Juniper Training, in Brierley Hill, have been planning and putting together the boxes over the last few weeks.

The boxes include thick socks, hats, gloves, bottles of water, breakfast bars, sandwiches, toothbrushes and soap. The students have also put together and created an advice and guidance booklet for people who may be homeless or suffer with mental health issues. The group, aged 16-to-18, headed to Birmingham last week to deliver the boxes.

Engagement tutor Scott Hastings said: "The students spent their first eight weeks on their programme, before taking part in work experience, building on their employability skills. They have taken part in applying for jobs, mock interviews and working as a team.

"They came up with the idea of creating the gift boxes for the homeless themselves."

Driverless cars key to tackling pollution

DRIVERLESS cars could be the key to tackling pollution across the West Midlands, a top environment chief has said.

Councillor Patrick Harley, portfolio holder for the environment for West Midlands Combined Authority, said it was an exciting time for autonomous vehicles and that science fiction was becoming reality.

By Richard Guttridge

He added driverless cars, buses and taxis could be travelling on the region's roads within 10 years.

"They're doing a lot of work on the driverless cars right now," said Councillor Harley. "Which I know makes you think of a Back to the Future-type thing, but it's actually happening.

Airports

"So I can see in ten years' time you may well be using buses and taxis that don't have drivers, just on automatic pilot. And it seems like science-fiction but the technology is already there, it's already happening.

"And they're already being used in airports such as Dubai by local companies who are already manufacturing these autonomous vehicles." Councillor Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said it took a while for the authority to fully get to grips with its new environmental brief following its formation in mid-2016. However, he says the combined authority now has a very clear idea of what it wants to do in regards to the environment.

"We're in a position now where we've got some key initiatives that we want to try and do some good work on across all seven mets (councils)," he said.

"We want to try and invest in and encourage these new technologies that are across these seven mets, such as greener vehicles, fuel-less vehicles."

The Ticket

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WOYZECK: GIVE ME A BREAK!

PAGE 2

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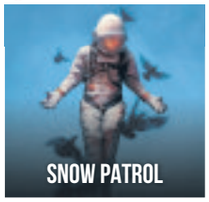

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Woyzeck's whole lot of heart – no drama

Community is at the heart of Birmingham's cultural scene. And so Birmingham REP director Roxana Silbert is particularly pleased to give 100 locals the chance to perform.

They feature in a stunning new production called Woyzeck, by Georg Buchner, which is being presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre in association with Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018 from tomorrow until June 23.

It stars a central character, Woyzeck, who just can't get a break. He's stuck living in military barracks and is forced to shave his condescending commanding officer every day. His wages are pitiful. His girlfriend might be having an affair. And now he is hearing voices. Maybe he's starting to crack? Or maybe it's just because his doctor is trialling a pea-only diet on him? It's far from ideal but his doctor's poking and prodding comes with the reward of some extra money. It's the chance for a better life if Woyzeck can just hold on that little bit longer.

Roxana says: "Woyzeck was written in the 1830s and we now have a new adaptation of it by Leo Butler. It has two professional actors, Woyzeck and Marie, his girlfriend, but the remaining 100 are community participants."

Theatre and dance will combine in the exhilarating story about fighting for a better life when everything else seems to be fighting against you. And as well as celebrating the human spirit, Woyzeck also celebrates the West Midlands spirit as a community with its chorus of 100 performers and dancers.

Roxana adds: "The play is the story of Woyzeck as a young man. They have a baby. It's the end of a War and it's set in the here and now in an unspecific Middle Eastern town, when they've won the war against insurgents. It's a heady period when the war is over but normality has not yet been established. In essence, it's about how they are trying to survive. He is a soldier with PTSD and no money. There's nothing in that town. It's about his mental health and how he's crushed. But also it's about how spirited they are."

The reason Roxana wanted to stage the play with a community cast is that the key themes of the work focus on the relationship between community and Woyzeck. "There are parades, drunken parties and towns."

And so as well as bringing the West Midlands community into the REP, the theatre has also been able to provide invaluable experience to theatrical assistants, assistant directors and tech-staff looking to improve in their chosen careers of sound and stage management.

The participation of amateurs has been revealing. It has not only given them hard-to-come-by experience of being in a professional theatre, but also re-energised the REP itself.

Roxana adds: "The people are from Birmingham and the surrounding area and there are all sorts of individuals here. For three years, we've been looking at this type of initiative where we get more members of the community involved and it's been tremendously important for both the theatre and those taking part.

"What we are hoping to do is create a sustained all-year round drama workshop for the theatre."

In addition to providing entertainment for regular theatre goers, Woyzeck is also an exercise in outreach work. It is demonstrating the creative talents of people from Birmingham, the Black Country and beyond. And the talents of West Midlanders is a theme that Roxana warms to. "This is an amazingly talented city. It has an amazing range of young artists but also it's an extraordinary city because it's so diverse and the sense of community is so strong. The best part of this is how lovely people are to each other. The participants are aged 16 to 80 and they come from all backgrounds and all areas. They all make a great effort to get along."

Roxana's background was in community theatre and she has brought that ethos to the REP.

"It's energising and inspiring to give people these opportunities. You know, the creativity in this city is second to none. You don't see the diversity of talent that you see in London or Manchester. We don't know why people come to these things when they arrive on the first day, but over time we get to know them and their stories are tremendous.

"We have a girl who has been in hospital for three years and this the first time she's danced since she's got out. We've seen people with no confidence stand on the largest stage in the country and speak out with huge confidence. A lot of people who come do so for personal reasons, frequently because things have gone wrong. Part of their rehabilitation is being creative. And from my perspective, that's much more moving than seeing people who are paid professionals.

"I think a regional theatre is about community. To put that community at the heart of what we do is the most important thing of all."

Community culture – the show is giving locals the chance to perform

This is an amazingly talented city. The sense of community is strong

- **Tickets are available from the venue.**
- **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

In the Upper Room Pic: Roy Smiljanic

Curtain up on classic and contemporary ballets

FOLLOWING a successful tour of Japan, Birmingham Royal Ballet return home this month with striking modern works and the most famous love story ever told.

Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet will be staged at the company's home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, from June 26 to 30.

Before that BRB present two modern classics and a must-see premiere in an adventurous programme entitled Polarity and Proximity.

Created in 2014 by former BRB dancer Alexander Whitley for the Birmingham International Dance Festival, Kin. is an athletic, abstract piece danced to a pulsing, hypnotic score by Phil Kline.

Embrace, choreographed by Worcestershire-born George Williamson to a specially commissioned score from Sarah Kirkland Snider with new designs from Madeleine Girling, premieres as part of the Ballet Now talent development programme.

The triple bill concludes with American choreographer Twyla Tharp's In the Upper Room. Quick footed, dancers in sneakers and striking red pointe shoes dominate the stage with energy, flair and finesse, dancing to the hypnotic music of Philip Glass.

The Polarity and Proximity programme is at the Hippodrome, as part of the Birmingham International Dance Festival, from June 20 to 23.

A cast of more than 50 feature in Romeo and Juliet, and the spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's score played live by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Be Witness as Katy Roars into Brum

She stormed to the top of the charts with debut single I Kissed A Girl 10 years ago – and has shown no signs of letting up since.

A string of hits have followed for Katy Perry – or Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson to give her her real name – including further number ones California Gurls, Part of Me and Roar.

After album successes with One of the Boys, Teenage Dream and Prism, the 35-year-old singer/songwriter, pictured, has embarked on her Witness tour and plays at Arena Birmingham next Monday, June 18. Popular 21-year-old Hailee Steinfeld, best know for her hits Starvin, a collaboration with Zedd, and Capital Letters, with BloodPop, provides support.

Ticket prices start from £57.40, including an admin fee. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call the ticket hotline on 0844 33 88 222.

HIGHLIGHTS

Award-winning US jazz and soul guitarist and singer George Benson has a date in the Second City on the same night.

Since the early 1960s, Benson's recorded highlights have included Give Me The Night and In Your Eyes. He performs at the Symphony Hall.

"This ain't no disco. It ain't no country club either." It's the same Broad Street venue where Sheryl Crow, well-known for hits such as All I Wanna Do, performs on Tuesday, June 19. It Ain't Over Til It's Over as Grammy-award winning Lenny Kravitz takes the stage at Arena Birmingham on Wednesday.

Next Thursday, meanwhile, is a nice day for a White Wedding, as Billy Idol completes a busy week of gigs in Birmingham. The rocker plays at the O2 Academy.

Joel tops the bill at Brierley Hill

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 2016 runner-up Joel Dommett, pictured, tops the four comic bill when the Live At The Civic comedy night returns to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Saturday.

Also bringing the laughs will be debonair 1930s throwback Troy Hawke, musical Rob Deering and Dudley's own Wayne Beese.

Tickets cost £18.50 and the show starts at 8pm. It is for over 18s only.

See www.bhillcivic.co.uk for further details.

Roll over Beethoven for ELO encounter

A FANTASTIC tribute to Jeff Lynne's ELO aims to prove Rock and Roll is King this weekend – in the band's home city.

The ELO Encounter flawlessly recreate the wonderful sounds of the Electric Light Orchestra, with stunning lights and special effects to create an enthralling atmosphere.

The Blue Sky Tour hits the Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, on Saturday, from 7.30pm.

Expect to hear classic hits like Living Thing, Evil Woman, Telephone Line, Don't Bring Me Down. Hold On Tight and Sweet Talkin' Woman.

Tickets are £20, or £18 for students, under-16s and 60 plus. Book at www.crescent-theatre.co.uk or call the Crescent Theatre box office on 0121 643 5858.

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SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 16

CHOICE

Kirsty Wark

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018 (BBC2, 9pm)
The Royal Academy of Arts' Summer Exhibition is the world's oldest open submission show, allowing anyone to submit their work for consideration. As it reaches its 250th year, Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow the preparations for the annual art extravaganza. They meet this year's curator, the artist Grayson Perry, and follow a handful of aspiring artists, including celebrities Harry Hill, Joe Lycett and Una Stubbs, who submitted their work in the hope of being selected for a place in this hallowed institution.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. **1.15** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **4.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Peru v Denmark (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.10 BBC News.
7.20 Regional Programme.
7.30 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present another star-studded edition of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time inviting a selection of popular impressionists to compete. Seeking to emerge with the least points are The Big Impression double-act Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona, Dead Ringers co-stars Jon Culshaw and Jan Ravens, Rory Bremner and his Coalition Report collaborator Matt Forde, and Britain's Got Talent comedy stars Francine Lewis and Danny Posthill. (R)
8.20 Casualty. With Dylan nowhere to be found, Connie and Elle are forced to work together to pitch for funding for a new trauma centre. With both women struggling to hide their resentment of each other, their relationship hits rock bottom. Elsewhere, Bea grows concerned for Alicia, while Gem and Rash are tasked with looking after Connie's goldfish.
9.10 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Brendan O'Carroll's alter ego and her family welcome more celebrity guests into the family home, including Alan Davies, Marvin and Rochelle Humes and Wayne Bridge, who is called on to give Dermot and Buster a football masterclass.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Dan Walker introduces action from four group matches – France v Australia, Peru v Denmark, Argentina v Iceland and Croatia v Nigeria.
11.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. Argentina v Iceland. A full re-run of the opening match in Group D, as the teams faced each other at Spartak Stadium in Moscow.
1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Natural Born Winners. (R) **9.30** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **10.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **11.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **11.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **4.30** Choose the Right Puppy for You. (R) **5.30** The River Wye with Will Millard.
6.00 Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? Students face their mock GCSEs, while the head teachers of Erith and Townley announce a plan to bring both schools into the same trust. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 Dad's Army. Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)
7.30 Film: Earth: One Amazing Day. (2017) Premiere. Feature-length wildlife documentary from the same team the made David Attenborough's award-winning Planet Earth and Blue Planet documentaries, charting the story of life on Earth over the course of a single day. The film introduces viewers to a cast of characters including a baby zebra desperate to cross a swollen river, a penguin heroically undertaking a death-defying daily commute to feed its family, a family of sperm whales that like to snooze vertically and a sloth on the lookout for love. Narrated by Robert Redford.
9.00 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018. Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow preparations for the annual art exhibition, meeting this year's curator Grayson Perry and some of the celebrities who have submitted work.
10.00 All Girls Live at the Apollo. Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life in this show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo.
10.45 Later Weekend with Jools Holland.
11.45 Film: The Help. (2011)
2.05 Civilisations on Your Doorstep. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.20** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Argentina v Iceland (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Catchphrase. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.25 Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)
7.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Croatia v Nigeria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match at the Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia, where the teams play their opening Group D contest. This will be the fifth World Cup the Croats have participated in, and they will hope to improve on their three most recent tournaments, all of which saw them lose their opening contest, before crashing out at the group stage. The one time they did win their first fixture was during their debut at France 98, when they registered a 3-1 win over Jamaica and qualified second in their group, and eventually finished third after beating the Netherlands in the third-place play-off. The Super Eagles have also got off to a slow start at their three most recent World Cup appearances, losing to Argentina in 2002 and 2010, while drawing 0-0 with Iran four years ago in Brazil, and a fast start could be imperative to their prospects of reaching the knockout stage given they will next face an unknown quantity in Iceland, before re-acquainting themselves with old foes Argentina.
10.15 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 Film: Rocky II. (1979) Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers.
12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

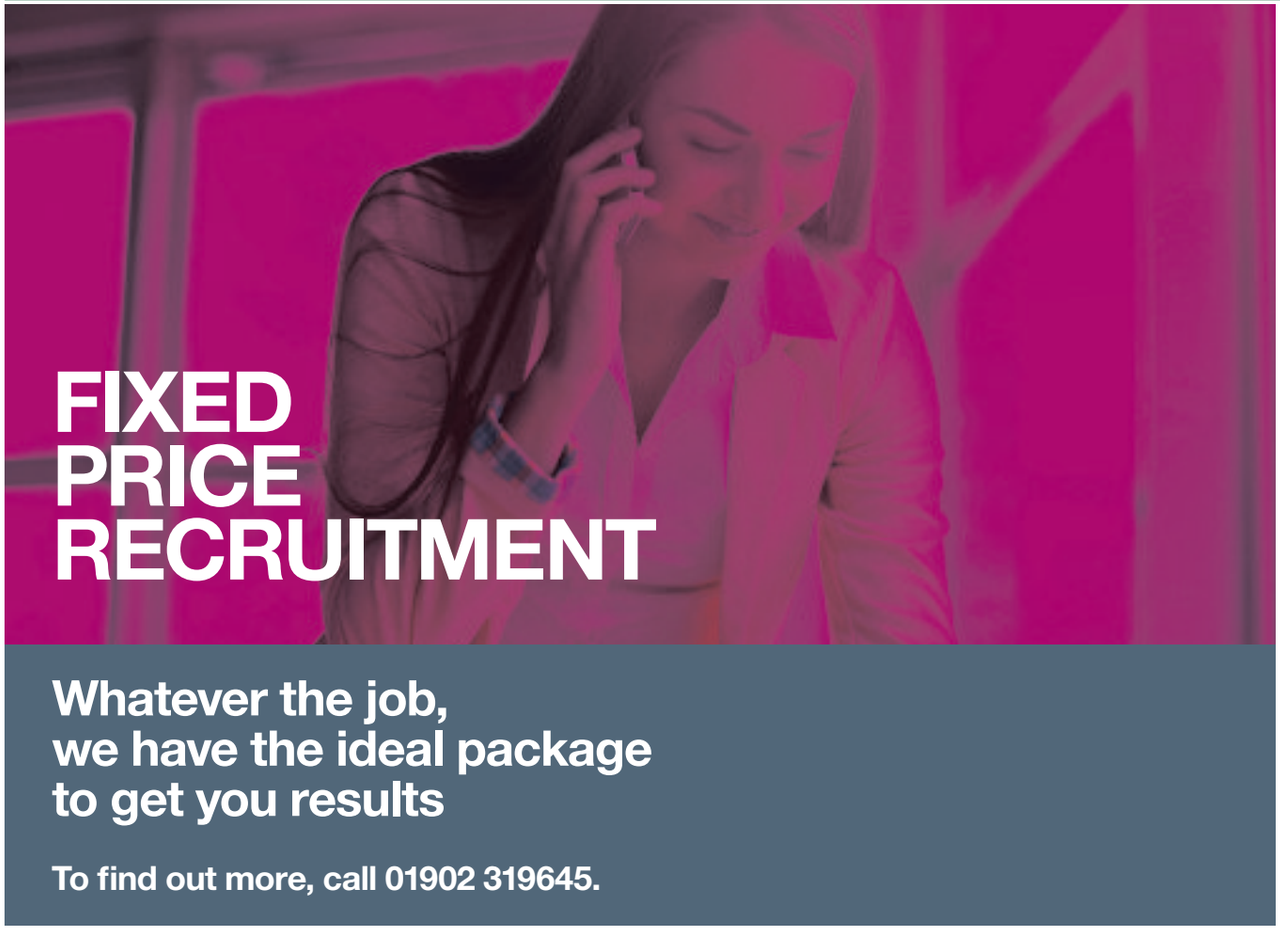
6.05 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.35** Triathlon: Blenheim Palace. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.45** Frasier. (R) **9.15** Frasier. (R) **9.45** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.40** The Simpsons. (R) **11.10** The Simpsons. (R) **11.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.15** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.45** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.25** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News.
6.00 Film: Snow White & the Huntsman. (2012) An evil queen learns that her reign will last for ever if she kills a princess, so sends a renowned warrior to find and murder her. However, he comes to realise his mistress's evil ways, and instead trains his intended victim to fight so they can bring the tyrant's rule to an end. Fantasy adventure, with Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.
8.20 Live International Rugby Union. Argentina v Wales (Kick-off 8.40pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the international fixture, staged at the Estadio Brigadier Lopez in Santa Fe. Warren Gatland and his squad will want to finish the international season on a high by clinching a morale-boosting win against the Pumas, 15 months out from the next World Cup. With analysis from Shane Williams, Ugo Monye and Ryan Jones, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Martyn Williams.
10.55 Film: A Million Ways to Die in the West. (2014) A timid farmer tries to become a gunslinging Wild West hero to impress a mysterious woman. Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane, with Charlize Theron.
1.05 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay uncovers more problems at the Juniper Hill Inn. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. James wants to make sure Harry is back on the straight and narrow, and Sami gives Kyle the wrong idea, while Cindy employs her experiences to help Alfie. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. A group have to make canapes for 40 guests. (R) **5.00** Jamie's Comfort Food. Jamie Oliver prepares ossobuco with a twist. (R) **5.10** Cheap Cheap Cheap. Kelly shows off her gymnastic skills. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. (R) **12.25** Funniest Ever Toddler Tantrums. (R) **1.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.15** Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R) **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20** Chuckle Time.
6.10 The Wonderful World of Puppies. New series. The first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey.
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the second one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.
7.40 Before They Were Stars. New series. A trek back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. Among those skewered are pop stars, rock legends, silver-screen icons, celebrated comedians and sporting heroes.
8.40 Blind Date. New series. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which contestants must choose between three unseen suitors.
9.35 20 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows. A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. Included is the occasion Will Young triumphed over Simon Cowell's favourite Gareth Gates on Pop Idol and the discovery of Cheryl Fernandez-Versini via Pop Stars: The Rivals. Plus, the memorable time Susan Boyle stepped out to sing I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent and the tragic tale of Lena Zavaroni, the former child star winner of Opportunity Knocks. Contributors include Louis Walsh, Pete Waterman and Nina Myskow. (R)
11.05 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** The Green Hornet. (2011) **5.00** Access. **5.10** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Darcey Bussell's Looking for Audrey **9.00** Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **11.30** Killing Me Softly: The Roberta Flack Story **12.30** Natural World: The Woman Who Swims with Killer Whales **1.30** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **2.30** Darcey Bussell's Looking for Audrey **3.30** Close
ITV2
12.25 Ninja Warrior UK **1.30 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.15 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.20 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.05 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.55** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Through the Keyhole **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
7.00 Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.05** Murder, She Wrote **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from York. Coverage of today's races. **4.00 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **6.40** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00 Film:** Lethal Weapon (1987) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Lethal Weapon (1987) **11.15 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **1.25** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.30** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.50 Young Sheldon **12.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.20 Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00 Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** Rude Tube **4.25** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 Rugrats Go Wild (2003) **1.00** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **3.00** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.40** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **6.50** Romancing the Stone (1984) **9.00** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **10.55** Predator 2 (1990) **1.05** Sorcerer (1977) **3.35** Close



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SUNDAY'S TV JUNE 17

CHOICE

Gareth Southgate

Managing England: The Impossible Job (BBC2, 9pm)

A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents Sven Goran-Eriksson, Roy Hodgson and Sam Allardyce. Past players such as Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer and Rio Ferdinand also contribute as the programme looks at why it is such a difficult job and how the nation's trophy drought in the sport can be ended.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.10** Escape to the Country. **1.40** Points of View. **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **3.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Germany v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening Group F fixture, which takes place at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

6.10 A Question of Sport. With double Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington, world snooker champion Mark Selby, England cricketer Samit Patel and Great Britain 400m hurdler Dai Greene. (R)

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Sean Fletcher, Margherita Taylor and Steve Brown present the show from Northern Ireland, sailing a traditionally made clinker boat down Lower Lough Erne, reporting on the rising numbers of pine martens and marking the 200th anniversary of hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander's birth. Plus, Tom Heap talks to James Dyson about his ideas for the future of British farming and John Craven, Cerys Matthews and Simon King launch this year's photographic competition.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Newcastle's Civic Centre, where artefacts brought in to be valued include an impressive crossbow and a collection of plans for RMS Mauretania.

9.00 Poldark. The Enyses announce they are having a baby, while Hugh's failing health threatens his chances of standing for election and puts more pressure on the Poldarks' failing marriage.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Action from the latest group matches.

11.20 The World Cup: Hopes of a Nation. A look at England's star players in World Cups from 1982 through to the present day. (R)

11.55 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.

1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **6.45** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.10 Film:** Carmen Jones. (1954) **1.55 Film:** The Odd Life of Timothy Green. (2012) Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner. **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R)

6.00 Dragons' Den. Jenny Campbell, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Deborah Meaden and Tej Lalvani assess the profit-making potential of a young entrepreneur's plan for selling advertising space on the move, a teacher's unusual scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a range of chain-tensioning products for motorcycles. (R)

7.00 Million Pound Menu. A husband and wife want to bring bubble-and-squeak to the masses and a former cookery school teacher has a dream of opening his own restaurant. But both need investment. (R)

8.00 Expedition Volcano. Part one of two. Documentary following scientists studying volcanoes in the Congo, beginning with Nyiragongo, which has erupted twice in the last 50 years. (R)

9.00 Managing England: The Impossible Job. A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven Goran-Eriksson.

10.00 Atlanta. Earn accompanies Van to an up-market Juneteenth soiree, where the pair pose as man and wife in an effort to help Van secure some vital networking contacts.

10.25 Atlanta. Earn's jacket goes missing after a house party. Determined to track it down, he re-traces his steps, and manages to tie up a few loose ends in the process.

10.50 Film: Begin Again. (2013) A disgraced record executive begins a life-changing collaboration with a singer he meets in New York's East Village. Comedy drama, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo.

12.30 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** The Martin Lewis Money Show Live. (R) **10.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **11.20** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Costa Rica v Serbia (Kick-off 1.00pm). All the action from the opening match in Group E, which comes from the Samara Arena in Russia. **3.15** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. With contestants Harry Redknapp, Denise Van Outen and Audley Harrison. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Brazil v Switzerland (Kick-off 7.00pm). Both teams get their Group E campaigns under way at the Rostov Arena in Russia. Mark Pougatch presents. Mark Pougatch is joined by Ian Wright, Roy Keane, Slaven Bilic and Gary Neville in the studio, with commentary from Clive Tyldesley and Lee Dixon.

9.15 Celebrity Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a special World Cup edition of the game show, asking contestants John Barnes, Helen Chamberlain and Chris Kamara to 'see it and say it' as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000 for charity.

10.15 ITV News; Weather.

10.30 Classic Brit Awards 2018. Alexander Armstrong and Myleene Klass host the classical music awards show from the Royal Albert Hall. Featuring a celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals.

12.15 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport. (R) **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The King of Queens. (R) **6.30** Motorsport: GT Silverstone. **7.30** Eat the Week. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25 Film:** Mirror Mirror. (2012) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts. **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Bang on Budget.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Series following a British family restoring a French chateau. As summer arrives, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree are busier than ever with seven weddings and 14 food lovers' weekends to prepare for. And as if that wasn't enough to keep them busy, they must also sort out the garden. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the next stage of the patisserie contest, in which the three best teams from both sets of heats are brought together, facing new rivals and yet more demanding challenges as they strive to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin. For their first task, the six teams must each prepare 24 classic croissants and 24 Viennoiserie in just four hours. The second challenge involves preparing a romantic sugar showpiece, which must incorporate two types of confectionery.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offred goes into a downward spiral as a Gilead ceremony disrupts her relationship with Nick. Janine tries to adjust to life in the Colonies, jeopardizing her friendship with Emily.

10.05 The Swingers. The first episode of the second series of the Dutch drama exploring the dark side of suburbia. Steef is in jail following a confrontation, but does not plan on staying there. The full series is available online.

10.55 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Sean Lock teams up with Andrew Flintoff to compete against guest captain Bill Bailey and team-mate Roisin Conaty in the comedy panel quiz show mash-up. Presented by Jimmy Carr. (R)

12.00 Film: All Is Lost. (2013) **1.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **2.45** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **3.10** Gillette World Sport. **3.40** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Funniest Cutest Kittens Ever. (R) **1.45 Film:** One Chance. (2013) Fact-based comedy drama, starring James Corden. **2.45** Access. **2.50 Film:** One Chance. (2013) Concluded. **3.50 Film:** Walking on Sunshine. (2014) Musical comedy, starring Hannah Arterton. **4.50** Access. **4.55 Film:** Walking on Sunshine. (2014) Concluded. **5.40** 5 News Weekend. **5.45** Britain's Favourite Abba Songs. (R)

7.00 Abba: When All Is Said and Done. Docudrama telling the stories of singers Agnetha Faltskog and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, told through the words both of those in Abba's close circle and of the women themselves. Agnetha Faltskog was the band's blonde sweetheart, but privately she was very different and found fame difficult to cope with and ended up in court battling a stalker that she had let into her life, while Anni-Frid enjoyed the limelight, but her rags-to-riches story is one of immense loss and tragedy. (R)

9.00 The Mamma Mia Story. The enduring appeal of the hit stage and movie musical set to the songs of Abba, with contributions from writer Catherine Jenkins, celebrity fans and cast members.

10.25 Abba: Live in Concert. The Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979, featuring hits including Voulez-Vous, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. (R)

11.30 Eurovision's Greatest Hits. A countdown of the most memorable tracks from past song contests. (R)

12.25 Lip Sync Battle UK: Peter Andre vs Gino D'Acampo. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Film: The Eagle Huntress (2016) **8.20** Victoria Wood: Seen on TV **9.50** Julius Caesar **11.45** Can Science Make Me Perfect? with Alice Roberts **1.15** Timewatch: Young Victoria **2.05** Oh Do Shut Up Dear! Mary Beard on the Public Voice of Women **3.05** Close

ITV2

12.40 Take Me Out **1.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.55 Film:** Casper (1995) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Casper (1995) **4.50 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **6.55 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.55 Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Vera **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.20** Road to Avonlea **5.05** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.15 The Professionals **12.20** The Sweeney **1.25** Pawn Stars **2.50 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Khartoum (1966) **5.30** World Rugby U20 Championship Live. Coverage of the final (Kick-off 6.00pm). **8.15** Sporting Funnies **8.30** River Monsters **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **10.00 Film:** Source Code (2011) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** Source Code (2011) **11.55 Film:** The Ghost (2010) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** The Ghost (2010) **2.35** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** The Big Bang Theory: Father's Day **6.00 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00** Gogglebox Australia **2.55** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **1.00** Shark Tale (2004) **2.45** Rio 2 (2014) **4.45** Field of Dreams (1989) **6.50** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **9.00** Triple 9 (2016) **11.15** Welcome to the Punch (2013) **1.10** Les Combattants (2014) **3.10** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadline for Death: Your Parents Will Die, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A newlywed couple of private detectives are forced to prove their crimebusting prowess when their parents are taken hostage by a vengeful kidnapper who claims his brother was wrongly convicted of murder. Mystery drama, starring Rachel Blanchard and Cameron Mathison. (2014)

TUESDAY
Unwanted Guest, Channel 5, 3.20pm
With nowhere to go for winter break, Amy is invited to spend time with her friend Christine's family. What begins as a nice bonding experience soon turns into a nightmare as Amy begins to lash out at her welcoming hosts. Thriller, starring Kate Mansi and Valentina Novakovic. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
Her Son's Deadly Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Thirteen years after disappearing, presumed drowned, a man returns home to his mother, but questions remain about his intentions. Thriller, starring Olivia d'Abo and Tammy Blanchard. (2018)

Sexy Beast, Friday, Channel 4, 12.10am

THURSDAY
Deadly Vows, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman becomes suspicious of her brother's fiancee, a pastry chef who poisons men who do not meet her high standards. Crime drama, starring Brittany Underwood and Cameron Jebo. (1900)

FRIDAY
Mad Max, ITV, 11.45pm
A cop in the near future sets out to avenge his family's murder at the hands of a biker gang. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Joanne Samuel. (1979)

Sexy Beast, Channel 4, 12.10am
A retired safe-breaker enjoying the high life in Spain becomes the target of unwanted attention when his psychotic former gangland boss comes looking to enlist his help and expertise for a major bank robbery in London. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone, Ben Kingsley, Ian McShane and Amanda Redman. (2000)

Will the Three Lions be ready to roar in Russia?

A few England supports will have fond memories of Alf Ramsay's side's famous triumph in 1966, but most others will only remember the agonising losses to Germany, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil.

Indeed, disappointments on the biggest stage have haunted the English national team for years – even more so recently.

At the 2014 World Cup, the Three Lions didn't even escape the group stage and at Euro 2016 they were eliminated in the last 16 by Iceland in an enormous upset.

But whether they like to admit it or not, most England fans are filled with at least a tiny bit of optimism believing that they can win the World Cup again.

Gary Cahill, Ashley Young and Jamie Vardy are the only players in the squad over 30 years old, and England have a fresher, younger look with a new manager.

Okay, at the back, there is inexperience that could be costly at this level, so a lot could hinge of the relatively old heads of Cahill, Kyle Walker, Ashley Young and Phil Jones.

However, boss Gareth Southgate is blessed with youthful talent up front, and Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Marcus Rashford are all capable of leading the line, while midfielders Dele Alli, Jesse Lingard, Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier are adept at providing the ammunition.

The first side in captain Kane and co's sights at the Volgograd Arena today are Group G rivals Tunisia.

The Eagles of Carthage are Africa's highest-ranked team, but come into the World Cup as a bit of a wildcard after qualifying for the first time in 12 years.

Nabil Maâloul's men's won their qualifying group without losing a match and only conceded four goals in six matches.

In this, their fifth World Cup, they are attempting to finally get out of the group stage, but they will have to do it without their best player, Youssef Msakni, who has a knee injury.

Instead, Tunisia will rely heavily on striker Saber Khalifa and attacking midfielder Wahbi Khazri, who has had an outstanding club season after being loaned from Sunderland to French side Rennes.

Coming up against England and Belgium in their first two matches could be brutal for the Tunisians, but if they can salvage a point in one of those contests, a spot in the Round of 16 could be within reach by the time they face Panama.

You may recall England and Tunisia met at the same stage in 1998, with England running out comfortable 2-0 winners in Marseille thanks to goals from Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes.

They will also begin as favourites this evening, although their opponents will be no pushovers, and as with every campaign, one thing is almost guaranteed – there'll be drama aplenty.

So if you're an England fan, prepare to have your nerves shattered and nails bitten down to the wick.

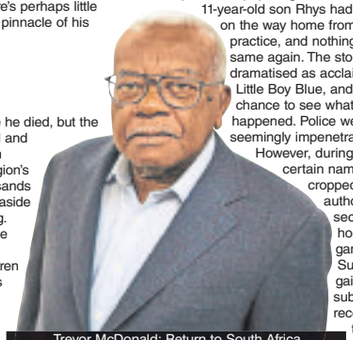
MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018, Monday, BBC1, 6.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Family Farm
BBC2, 8pm
The first of a new four-part series is right up Kate Humble's street. The veteran of many impressive series, including Wild Shepherdess, and Back to the Land, presents the show in which three families agree to work on a North Wales hill farm, living in a purpose-built yurt village in the shadow of Snowdonia. And if that sounds like a lot of hard work, then you'd be right. Hill farming is exhausting enough on the best of days, but when the weather is not so kind, it will push the brave participants to their limits. Episode one focuses on working with sheep, which must be gathered, sheared and sold at market. If nothing else the series will ensure viewers spare a thought for those who have to do this every day without cameras rolling.

TUESDAY
Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa
ITV, 9pm
It's more than three decades since the host first witnessed the horrors of apartheid in South Africa. Now, to mark what would have been Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday, Trevor McDonald has returned to visit places where he saw moments that would change the history of a country. The veteran presenter was the first journalist to interview Mandela after his release from prison. He visits Vilekazi Street, the site of the African National Congress veteran's family home, and the place where he conducted the first interview with the political leader following his release from prison after 27 years incarceration. There's perhaps little wonder Trevor considers this the pinnacle of his journalistic career.

WEDNESDAY
Mad About Elvis
BBC1, 7.30pm
It's more than four decades since he died, but the spirit of Elvis Presley is alive, well and partying hard in Porthcawl, South Wales. This film examines the region's annual Elvis Festival, when thousands of fans descend on the Welsh seaside town for a celebration of The King. Among the devotees that pack the promenade, pubs and seafront Pavilion, are Festival Opener Darren Graceland Jones, a full-time Elvis tribute artist, whose bread and butter is performing as Elvis to dementia sufferers in care homes.


Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Murder of Rhys Jones: Police Tapes
ITV, 9pm
It should have been just another Wednesday night in 2007 as Liverpool mum Melanie Jones carried out a spot of wallpapering. Then she discovered her 11-year-old son Rhys had been shot while on the way home from football practice, and nothing was ever the same again. The story was dramatised as acclaimed TV drama Little Boy Blue, and now there's a chance to see what really happened. Police were left with a seemingly impenetrable case. However, during investigations, certain names repeatedly cropped up, so the authorities planted secret bugs in the homes of these gang members. Susanna Reid gains access to the subsequent recordings, where those responsible admit their part and the lengths they would go to cover up the crime. Rhys's parents, Mel and Steve, also discuss the impact of this shocking crime.

FRIDAY
Cruising with Jane McDonald
Channel 5, 9pm
It's not a bad life being the star of this show. After all, not only does she get paid to travel the world, but with a Bafta under her belt, there's little chance of producers pulling the plug for a good year or more. In the first of a two-parter, she's exploring South America aboard a luxury ship. Beginning in Valparaiso, Jane enjoys a street art tour, before travelling south along the Chilean coast. A few days later she oohs and aahs over a glacier on Laguna San Rafael, and partakes in the traditional drinking of whisky on ice directly from the glacier. In deepest Patagonia, she stops off in Punta Arenas, and then once back on board the ship, Jane enjoys a tour of the bridge with the captain as they head for the Falklands.

The Bridge
BBC2, 9pm
Pressure mounts to release Tommy's uncooperative mother. A private detective hired by Niels Thormod goes missing. In Danish and Swedish.

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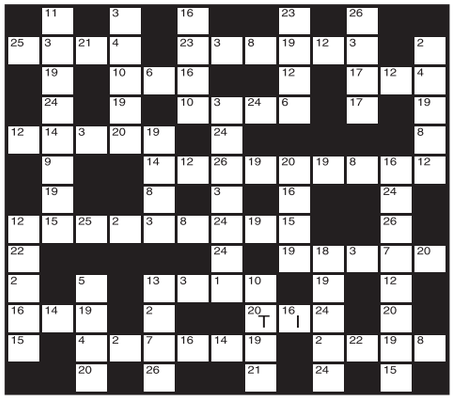
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



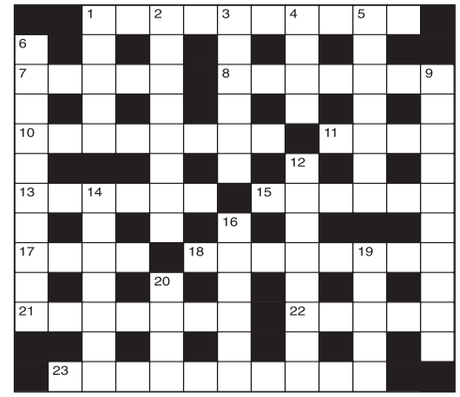
1	14
2	15
3	16 I
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20 T
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	Y	O	P	D	I	R	H	Z	F	G	L	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	C	U	E	A	X	K	J	S	N	V	W	Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Escort me to new set-up to settle (4,2,4)
7. Correctly adjust a rank, we hear (5)
8. Change of raiment for part of the mosque (7)
10 & 3Dn. Become incensed and fail to process the steel properly? (4,4,6)
11. 22 Across is backing the favourites (4)
13. Mother to make inquiries for fine material (6)
15. Irritates one with chest disorder (6)
17. Few disturbed about one mate (4)
18. Tutor can become a renegade (8)
21. A blazer put on at Christmas time (4-3)
22. A certain speed without delay (5)
23. Friday dragging on infinitely without company! (10)

Down

1. Money required for company in the south (5)
2. My French bird is a snake destroyer (8)
3. See 10 Across.
4. It comes from a caller in Germany (4)
5. Extend a sentence (7)
6. Telephoned on holiday – received message to depart (6,4)
9. He should put the right letters in his case (4-6)
12. One's gate could date back a long way (5,3)
14. Neckwear that will deaden the sound (7)
16. Softly encouraged to be refined (6)
19. Jewels appeal to friends (5)
20. Most of the Navy escape (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Amazing (10)
7. Map (5)
8. Touch (7)
10. Eternally (8)
11. Couple (4)
13. Threefold (6)
15. Picture-house (6)
17. Absent (4)
18. Answer (8)
21. Investigate (7)
22. Debate (5)
23. Tenacious (10)

Down

1. Musty (5)
2. Inopportune (8)
3. Accompany (6)
4. Completed (4)
5. Ignorant (7)
6. Emphasise (10)
9. Menaced (10)
12. Supplant (8)
14. Pattern (7)
16. Alcove (6)
19. Darkness (5)
20. Fling (4)

Sudoku

6	5				9			8
4		7	8			2		
		1	7				5	
7	2	8						
			9	4			8	
		5				6	3	1
	6				4	9		
				8	2	3		5
		4	1				2	6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	7	9	5	4	1	3	8
4	3	5	6	8	1	9	2	7
8	1	9	3	7	2	6	5	4
5	2	8	7	3	6	4	9	1
9	7	3	1	4	5	8	6	2
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	7	3
1	5	6	4	2	3	7	8	9
3	9	4	8	6	7	2	1	5
7	8	2	5	1	9	3	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Starter; 7 Every; 9 End; 10 Appearing; 12 Sports model; 15 Star studded; 17 Vacillate; 19 Lie; 21 Began; 22 Binding. Down: 1 Stand; 2 Urn; 3 Keep; 4 Overpower; 5 Drinker; 8 Leased; 11 Appraisal; 13 Rattle; 14 Steamer; 16 Lions; 18 Trip; 20 Odd.
QUICK - Across: 6 Legally; 7 Civil; 9 Wry; 10 Resultant; 12 Possibility; 15 Downhearted; 17 Stolidity; 19 Vow; 21 Boasted; 22 Leading. Down: 1 Learn; 2 Way; 3 Glee; 4 Distiller; 5 Dignity; 8 Number; 11 Countless; 13 Speedy; 14 Control; 16 Mount; 18 Teem; 20 Add.

Quiz

1. Which two of Wagner's opera titles are father and son?
2. At what Beaufort number does smoke rise vertically?
3. Of which element is charcoal a form?
4. What was 12-year-old Vicki van Meter the youngest female pilot to cross?
5. Who painted The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp?
6. What was the British equivalent of America's Bureau of Consumer Protection?
7. Who was the second man on the moon?
8. With which medical disorder may one have Jacksonian seizures?
9. Which controversial TV playwright died in June 1994?
10. Of which country was Rafael Callejas elected president in 1989?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Orwell; 2 Dance; 3 Nicosia; 4 A zygote; 5 M/V Derbyshire; 6 Henry VIII; 7 Hastings; 8 Pierce Brosnan; 9 Mushroom; 10 Ionian.

Niner: LUBRICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6311787 gives an Italian composer,
96759 gives a Norwegian composer,
95612478 gives an American composer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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No monkeying around – this is tasty

FOR anyone who's watched Tom Kerridge's latest programme, Top of the Shops, the name Nisha Katona might ring a bell.

The 46-year-old was one of the judges on the BBC Two eight-part show, which pitted Britain's best artisan producers against one another with the reward being a leg-up in an increasingly competitve industry.

Lancashire lass Nisha knows a bit about turning a culinary dream into a reality. She was a barrister for 20 years before deciding to become a restaurateur, food writer and self-styled 'curry evangelist'.

Four years later, Nisha's published three cookery books and has a chain of restaurants. That's pretty good going.

She has branches of her restaurant, Mowgli, in Manchester, Liverpool and Oxford, Birmingham, with Leeds 'opening in autumn 2018', according to the company's website.

SWINGS

Nisha's concept is to serve food Indians eat in their homes and on the street. It's not an entirely new idea with purveyors of Indian street food popping up everywhere.

Mowgli joined the fold fairly recently, its dangling rope swings, illuminated bird cages and exposed bulbs making for a unusual and eye-catching interior. But how does it fair when it comes to serving Indian street food? Is it Top of the Shops? Is Mowgli king of the swingers?

We visited after a disastrous theatre trip with our toddler in which we had to make a sharp exit from Sarah & Duck's Big Top Birthday following a rather catastrophic meltdown over a lack of Cadbury Buttons. We dipped out of the Old Rep and into Grand Central looking for somewhere to improve parent-child relations and sate our growling tummies.

Food is fresh, tasty and served in dinky portions

Monkey around – Mowgli in Grand Central

And so with rope swings, sunny service, the promise of speedy street food, and some crayons and a colour-in sheet for the little 'un, we opted for dinner at Mowgli.

The menu's divided into 'street' foods and more main course dishes such as curries, although our waitress explained that most of them were fairly small so we'd need two or three per person. The price reflects the size of the dishes too, with many of them about £5/6 each.

There are also complete meal tiffin boxes comprising a chef's selection of curries and carbs. 'Food roulette, total pot luck' says the menu. Nice.

Anyway we settled on six dishes plus a trio of sides. There's a children's menu but our little girl was too busy scribbling over the selection with a blue crayon so we agreed she'd just have a bit of everything we were having.

First to arrive was the bhel puri, an army mess-style steel tin packs with puff rice with crisp gram threads, peanuts, coriander and a spicy dressing. This was heavenly. Crunchy, nutty, zingy, sour, I could have eaten it by the bucket load and we fought over who had the last spoonful.

Next we went for butter chicken, the house keema, a portion of dhal and the Mowgli paneer. Of the sides dishes we opted for a couple of puris, the basmati rice and the Mowgli slaw.

The paneer dish was exquisite, and the lamb keema was packed with flavour. For dessert we enjoyed two handmade ice cones.

We settled up, paying £56, which included a large sparkling water and a can of Old Jamaica ginger beer and a tip. Service was friendly and helpful without being intrusive.

EMILY BRIDGEWATER

New Duster pricing and specification

By James Parker

Building on the success of the first generation, the all-new Duster has been improved and refined in almost every area but is as versatile as ever.

The new Duster's ability to stray off the beaten track is expressed by the latest version's updated design. In keeping with the model's DNA, the Duster combines robust, muscular styling with a truly assertive personality. A totally revised interior features new technologies never before seen on the Dacia range.

Still the UK's most affordable SUV, the Duster is priced from £9,995 with UK deliveries beginning from July.

The dashboard and interior have been rotally revised

There's a distinctive grille and LED daytime running lights

New 17-inch wheels with black wing arch trims give the car a more assertive personality

Highlights

The exterior styling is brand-new and not one body panel is carried over from the previous generation car. New 17-inch wheels with black wing arch trims give the car a more assertive personality with a more distinctive grille extending to the head lights, making the car look wider.

The model has a new lighting signature, including LED daytime running lights divided into three sections and Dacia's rear lighting signature – four red stacked squares – has been adapted for the Duster.

The newly designed bonnet features sculpted crease lines that give the car an even more rugged appearance.

A larger, mass-coloured, scratch-resistant front skid plate reinforces Duster's adventurer credentials.

The dashboard and interior have been totally revised for enhanced comfort and quality. The centre console accommodates a higher-positioned driver-focused MediaNav multimedia touchscreen display for clear, easy access, with one of the market's shortest viewing distances.

The seats have been completely redesigned with denser foam for improved comfort and support. The front seat cushions are 20mm longer and the driver's seat comes with an armrest, lumbar adjustment and a new height-adjustment system which travels through 60 mm (compared with 40 mm previously).

Cabin noise has been halved by increasing the percentage of sound-absorbing surfaces in the cabin and engine compartment from 20 to 50 per cent, reducing noise thanks to improved sealants and plugs and using 0.35mm-thicker glass for the front windows.

The car is now fitted with larger-diameter 165 mm bicone speakers for enhanced audio quality.

Climate control is now available for the first time and the improved layout of the cabin features three rotary controls for this matching the three air vents located at the top of the dashboard.

The new Duster carries over the same off-roading credentials that helped to make the previous model such a success. Although visually a much more imposing car, the car offers dimensions close to those of its predecessor:

The Duster comes with a choice of one petrol and one diesel engine at launch. The SCe 115 (2WD and 4WD versions) and the Blue dCi 115 (2WD) which both use a manual gearbox.

STRIKING DEALS AT TWALL APPROVED

MANAGERS SPECIALS

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14/64	ALFA ROMEO MITO 1.0 8700 MILES	£8,495	£7,899
15/15	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4I SE 5DR AUTO GREY 21390 MILES	£10,495	£9,980
15/15	PEUGEOT 2008 ALLURE 5DR HB WHITE 17000 MILES	£10,495	£9,650
12/62	MAZDA 3 TAMURA 1.6 5DR BLACK 22273 MILES		£7,750
15/65	TOYOTA YARIS ICON VVT-I 5DR RED 12437 MILES		£9,450
15/15	HONDA CR-V EX I-DTEC AUTO SILVER 33193 MILES		£16,780
14/63	NISSAN JUKE 1.6 N TEC CVT 5DR AUTO BRONZE 33862 MILES		£9,788
16/16	HYUNDAI I30 1.6 CRDI SE BLACK 25520 MILES		£8,975
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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 14, 2018

The Niro has sleek looks and a low roofline

Niro justifies price tag on all fronts especially powertrain

By John Griffiths

It has the sharp looks and family car practicality that you'd expect of a serious entry in the highly competitive world of sports utility vehicles (SUVs).

But Kia's 2018 Niro is different: this world new £30,495 flagship version is the economy king of the SUV, cutting running costs and taxes with economy figures which eclipse even the most frugal of its diesel rivals.

Officially the figure is 67.3mpg for the petrol engine but – and this was a surprise to me – I actually managed to exceed that in real world driving. A 120-mile mainly motorway and A-road run returned 74.5mpg according to the trip computer, while on a series of shorter journeys the average was even better at over 80mpg thanks to the assistance provided by the electric motor.

Seeing the trip meter's 'range to empty' calculation climbing as you drive was also a first.

The secret of the new Niro PHEV (plug-in electric vehicle) is an efficient 1.5 litre petrol engine combined with a 44.5kw, or approximately 59bhp, working seperately or together in perfect harmony through a six-speed dual clutch gearbox, as opposed to the CVT system normally found on hybrids.

The arrangement is a first in the compact SUV class. It uses the same 1,580cc petrol engine as the first Niro

Inside it's sleek with plenty of equipment

parallel hybrid launched two years ago, but with a more powerful electric motor and larger battery pack. This allows the car to run potentially for up to 38 miles on electricity alone – for some motorists that would mean a petrol and emissions-free commute.

You can recharge the battery in two to three hours from a normal 13-amp socket, or more quickly from an EV charging point. It's well worth the two minute job of hooking up as when you're on the open road and using the hybrid drivetrain you get the joint benefits of livelier performance and improved economy.

Using both power sources, the Niro does the benchmark 0 to 62mph sprint in 10.5 seconds.

The electric motor helps the petrol engine on both counts. For instance you still start off on the electric motor, overcoming initial inertia, and the car automatically selects electric power during low speed manouvring or while crawling in traffic – all things which help drain your wallet on fossil-fuel only cars. You can swap modes manually, by pressing a button on the centre console. Regenerative braking, when you're coasting or braking, helps to keep the battery active.

The Niro has sleek looks and a low roofline, which is another surprise since there's no shortage of headroom inside for a driver and passengers of six-foot or a little more. It also has a family-sized 427 litre boot, rising to 1,425 litres with the rear seats folded down.

Yet it also means improved aerodynamics and sharper handling than some of its rivals, while as there is no 4x4 option the suspension is tuned for a comfortable on-road ride. It's quiet too – both in hybrid and electric models.

As well as the new powertrain, the flagship Niro PHEV is the best equipped model in the range justifying its £30,495 price. The Niro range starts from £23,135,

Safety systems are comprehensive including ABS and stability control plus hill start assist, rear crossing traffic alert, auto emergency braking and lane keep assist.

For many of us, £30,000 is a lot of money but the Niro justifies its tag on space and equipment – it's a nice car in its own right – before we come to the impressively efficient new power train, with its promise of fuel and tax savings over the life of the car.

With its ultra-low CO2 rating of 29g/km, the Phev is free from car tax in the first year, with the minimum £130 thereafter. The benefit-in-kind tax rate for company car drivers is a low 13 per cent.

But the icing on the cake is Kia's unique seven-year or 100,000 mile warranty.

You have to admire the Niro PHEV as a piece of technology, with its seamless combination of petrol and electric power and the smooth transmission. The fact that this technology is of direct benefit to owners and their pockets is just as it should be.

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Nissan

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Double awards delight for Škoda

By James Parker

The Škoda Octavia has expanded its remarkable trophy haul by clinching yet another industry title.

The brand's best-selling model in the UK eclipsed all its competitors to be named Auto Trader New Car of the Year 2018. And to make it a double delight for Škoda, the Superb was also named Auto Trader Family Car of the Year.

Unlike other industry awards, the Auto Trader Awards are voted for by visitors and readers of Auto Trader rather than a panel of journalists.

More than 40,000 site users took part in the judging process, with owners rating and scoring their cars and ownership experiences.

Scores

Participants were asked to rate their car across 16 different criteria ranging from reliability, performance and their appearance through to car features and running costs.

The Octavia – which was extensively updated last year – recorded the highest scores and finished ahead of the second placed BMW 1-Series and third placed Peugeot 3008.

Commenting on the Octavia's award win, Ivan Aistrop, Auto Trader's road test editor, said: "It's easy to see why Britain's car owners have voted the Octavia as their overall New Car of the Year.

"It offers an incredibly appealing mix of practicality, quality and affordability, and it's also good to drive, well equipped and full of clever features to make everyday life easier.

"As all-rounders go, they don't get much better than this."

The Octavia recorded the highest scores

Competition

Škoda also triumphed in the Family Car category, comfortably seeing off tough competition to take the sector title. Like the Octavia, the Superb is no stranger to award silverware, with this latest Auto Trader accolade being its 31st industry title since its introduction in 2015.

"The Superb is a great family car." commented Ivan Aistrop.

"Family life is demanding, so you need your family car to help make life a little easier every step of the way.

Škoda also triumphed in the Family Car category, comfortably seeing off tough competition to take the sector title

"The Superb is packed with lots of clever labour-saving little features, and it's also massive, with plenty of space for your brood, and all their stuff.

"Impressive quality, lots of luxury kit and a sophisticated driving experience all help, too. No wonder owners love it," added Ivan Aistrop.

Combined, the Octavia and Superb have secured more than 45 industry awards over the course of the last four years – making them two of the most decorated models in the brand's history. The Octavia remains Škoda's biggest selling model in the UK with 20,493 registrations in the UK in 2017.

While the Superb continues to grow its sector share with 10,810 units registered in 2017.

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More powertrains for DS 7 Crossback with petrol option

More choice of engines for the new DS 7 Crossback

Buyers in the market for a new DS 7 Crossback now have more choice when it comes to powertrains, thanks to the addition of a petrol engine to the SUV's range.

The French machine is now available with PSA's PureTech 225 turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine, which currently sees action in the Peugeot 308. It's paired with an eight-speed automatic gearbox and develops 222bhp along with 300Nm of torque.

It'll take the DS 7 Crossback from 0-60mph in 8.1 seconds and on to a top speed of 141mph. As for efficiency, a number of technologies feature on the powertrain to help keep fuel economy high and emissions low.

These include the addition of a particulate filter and 'ECO' function on the gearbox that allows for free-wheeling between 12 and 80mph. The result is a claimed 48.7mpg on a combined cycle with CO_2 emissions of 135g/km.

Available to order now, the PureTech 225 engine is offered on Prestige, Ultra Prestige and Performance Line trims of the DS 7 Crossback — with prices starting at £34,990.

There's another powertrain to come for the French SUV, too. It'll be a petrol-electric hybrid, sending 296bhp through all four wheels.

Full information on this electrified set-up will be revealed in due course.

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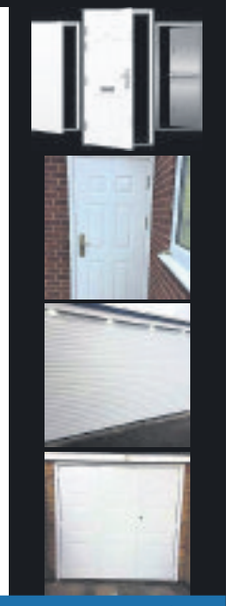

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1973, new Ford 75hp diesel engine, 4 berths in 2 cabins, length 26ft, beam 8ft 10, draft 2.0ft, antifouled 2018, anodes 18, bssc 2020, 2 cd players, raytheon radar spotlight, gas cooker, fridge
£12,000 ono.
0121 4262593. 07765 145208.

Car Boot Sales

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sunday 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449 DY6 0AA. 0771064490 www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH * WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED. No objection to work, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433.

HOLIDAY STATIC CARAVAN
On a riverside park between Tewkesbury and Gloucester with pub and River Severn.
£6,500.
07717 090817.

ISABELLA MAGNUM all weather awning, good condition, carbon poles, £400 o.n.o. 07730 673188.

RIVERSIDE STATIC CARAVAN, in Evesham, sited static. Fishing on site. You can walk in to town. £10,500. 07774 715830.

Holiday Home for sale -2017 Willerby Wrekin
BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
01743 885080
www.sevenoakspark.co.uk

STATIC CARAVAN
35 X 12, with large decking, 2 bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to coast, ground rent included for 2018, no age limit, dogs welcome. **£8,500ono.**
07555 303350.

STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE
Pemberton Elite
32ft x 12ft, 6 berth.
Two bedrooms, double glazed, site fees paid till 2019, gas checked, own fishing pools, very good condition inside and out, 15 miles outside Welshpool.
Dog friendly.
No age restrictions on caravan.
£9,500.
07902 853567.

STATIC CARAVAN
Tywyn, Mid Wales
CH, DG, sleeps 6, ground fees paid to 2019.
£13,000 o.n.o.
For more info call 07881 538052.

VW TRANSPORTER T25 POP TOP CAMPER
Devon Conversion, B reg, 1985, good original condition, 10 months MoT, 5 new tyres and battery, low miles.
£8,500 ono.
07733 777999.

Caravan Sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs,storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge.DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

Self Catering Holidays

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET sleeps 4 - 6, On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. June, Sep, Oct £130pw, July, £180pw, school Holidays £395pw. 07974 226928.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
" Weeks from £209 per couple
" Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Antique Fairs

VINTAGE ANTIQUE / Collectables Fair, Coven Memorial Hall WV9 5DL, Sunday 17 June, 9-3. Karen 01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards. **Sunday 17th June and 15th July**. Next Antique Fair 1st July. Est 1979, Waverley. Refreshments available. 0121 550 4381.

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

Furniture

THREE PIECE LEATHER SUITE
tilt and relax, 18 months old, immaculate condition cost over £4,000, **sell £1000 ono.**
Two solid oak bedside cabinets **£50.**
01384 571054.

In Your Garden

Allmark Landscaping and Gardening Services
• Grass Cutting • Fencing
• Hedge Cutting
• Garden Clearance
• Gravel Driveways
• Turfing and Lawns
• Gutter Cleaning
FREE QUOTES
No job too big or small!
07963 142736

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.
Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
Unit 17, Oak Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

LAWN MOWER only used three times, £50 ono.
01384 571054

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BEAUTY SALON EQUIPMENT as new, stool, lamp, semi permanent make up machine plus needles & cable, £650 ono. 01384 422396.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

FREEZER & DISHWASER Medium sized, good condition, £150. 07864 842076.

YOUNGMAN lightweight aluminium 2/3 section extension ladder, 7.43m fully extended, adjustable stand, used once. £60. 07766 014246.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

HARD TIMBER required, oak, sycamore, etc. Good rates paid. Contact Jim 07840 100518.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 48k computer wanted also any old Crash or your Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES
Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS CheckATrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

SOUTH STAFFS BUILDERS
OVER 30 YEARS EXP
GARDEN WALLS, SLABBING, CONSERVATORY BASES, PORCHES ETC.
01902 897995
07890 628868

Brickwork Maintenance
Boundary Walls, Steps, Part Rebuilds, Brick Replacement, Repointing, Lime Mortar Work. CRB, C&G, Insured, Free Quotes.
Lee
0789 147 5718 or 0121 585 8263
lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Electrical Services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards ***£795***
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

Painters/ Decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call: 07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on: 07771 727119

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"
Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

LADY WANTS Chihuahua puppy / young adult, male / female. Good home waiting.
01384 352738 leave message.

TWO GORGEOUS Black boy Cocker Poo puppies, 12 weeks. £400. Call 07891 614333.

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

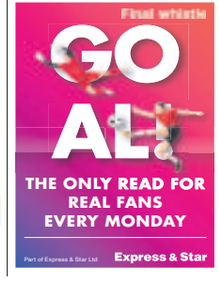
NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

DUDLEY 2-Bed new build apartment, nice area, dss ok, deposit negotiable. Call/text 07526 140603

PENSNETT/DUDLEY 1-2 Bed Flat, Rent / Dep neg. 07970 980955 or 07580 002815 or 0121 6021434.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.



Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE **0800 121 6007** OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call 01562 277 067
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

7 Jobs

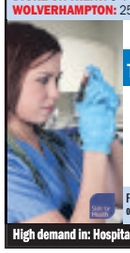
Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)
Call 01299 879 015
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August TELFORD: 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July & 17-18 November

Accredited ocn



Learn how to take blood ...

TRAIN AS A **PHLEBOTOMIST**

Introduction to Phlebotomy

- TWO DAY COURSE - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: www.geopace.com

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

Employment Wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER requires employment, any type of brick work. 07341 021774.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Part Time - General

PART TIME RECEPTIONIST wanted for Chiropractic Clinic in Wollaston. For more information visit: bit.ly/2LYm0sg

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Cars Over £1500

AUDI A1 1.6TDi 3-DR SPORT
2012, 37,000 miles, two tone, black, grey leather seats, Sat Nav, optional extra 2 tone alloy wheels, spare key, daytime running lights, stop start system, radio / CD, AUX, bluetooth, electric front windows, multi function steering wheel, air con, full Audi service history, MoT March 1, 2019, one previous owner, good condition inside and out, no road tax, first to see will buy.
£7,950
Any questions
07968 532995.

AUDI A4 1.9TDI
2007, 151,000 miles, grey, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, diesel.
£2,000.
07535 839498.

BMW 1 SERIES
127,000 miles, 2.0 diesel, manual, 5 seats, 5 doors, MoT has recently finished, full BMW service history, economical vehicle with cheap road tax, 2 previous owners, female driver, immaculate condition.
£3,250
07466 114543.

MUST BE SEEN

BMW Z3
1998, 1.9, green, 91,800, full service history, MOT May 2019, same owner 11 plus years, immaculate condition for year. Any trial.
£3,295
07979 355640.

FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCi
5-dr, 1.6 speed manual, 2012 (62), new timing belt kit and dual mass clutch / flywheel, full service history (130K), immaculate.
£3,995
07970 705466.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

MERCEDES C320 SE
Auto, Coupe, petrol, silver metallic, 2004/5 (Late 2004), 88,790 miles. Nice motor.
£2,500.
01384 440951.

HYUNDAI iX35
2011, 5-dr, five seats, 58,000 miles, black, electric windows, heated seats, air bags, radio / CD player, MoT'd, good condition.
£6,500
07905 809979.

IMMACULATE

MERCEDES E2 20 AVANTE GARDE
2004, 54 plate. 71,600 miles (Low Mileage) FSH. MoT'd December. Silver metallic. Superb condition in and out.
£3,500.
01902 766797 / 07817 507294.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

MINI ONE
Black with white bonnet stripes, 04 reg, 1.6 petrol, MoT March 2019, 92k miles, lady owner.
£1,675 ono.
07586 347777.

LOOK

NISSAN QASHQAI
2008, 70,000 miles, high spec Tekna model in super condition. Metallic beige, air con, heated fronted seats, panoramic sunroof, 12 months MoT.
£4,095.
07840 202232.

VAUXHALL TIGRA B 1.4 EXCLUSIVE
Full leather. 2007. Immaculate. Only 26, 000 miles. Second lady driver.
£2,800 ono.
07938 509811.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VW POLO 2007
39,000 miles. Lady owner. Excellent condition. Air con. E/W. Factory alarm. Petrol. 3 door. Full MoT. No service history.
£3,750.
0777 3181254.

Cars Under £1500

CITROEN C3 1.4 DIESEL
2007, 5dr hatchback, clean car inside/out, 133,365, grey colour, MoT until March 2019, any trial,
£895.
07787 424281 or 01902 238488.

BARGAIN

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 SX HDi DIESEL ESATE
2002
One months MoT.
Silver.
£500 ono.
07930 454001.

FORD FOCUS
2004, 101,000 miles, last serviced at 97k, silver, MoT until November 1, 2018, slight dent in passenger door. Still being used. Viewings welcome, priced to sell!
£600 ono.
01902 651983.

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK
2001, 1800, 5 months MoT, good condition and runner, very reliable.
£395 ono
07779 468428

BARGAIN

FORD KA 1599CC
2008. 3 door hatchback. Full 12 months MoT. Any trial. Blue colour. 69,774 miles.
£995.
07787 424281
or 01902 238488.

SUBARU FORESTER
2000, petrol,
137,400 miles had engine rebuild at 127,000, 784 miles, new clutch, cambelt,
recent front discs and pads
and Cat convertor,
MOT May 2019.
£1,200
07795 001603.

PEOPLE CARRIER

TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T. SPIRIT VVTi 1.8
2002. People Carrier. 12 months MoT. 114,000 miles. Very good condition in and out.
£625 ono.
07452 741041.
No txt's or withheld numbers replied too.

Classic Cars

CANARD DEAUVILLE
Four seater convertible with hardtop based on a galvlanised chasis, fibre glass body with 2cv running gear, full weather equipment.
£7,000.
01952 812165.

CLASSIC CAR

MGF
1999, 48,000 miles, red, electric windows, air bag, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, front and rear spoilers, stainless exhaust.
£2,250.
01902 751982.

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.**

mainline Salvage & Recovery
- SCRAP CARS WANTED
- FREE COLLECTION
- TOP PRICES PAID

Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Accessories & Services

AUTOMATIC GEARBOX For Vauxhall Astra Clubman, 1.6, Twinport S A 5dr hatchback, petrol car 2004 model,
£295 ono.
Also other parts for sale.
Telephone 07521 411373.

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS
Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

WANTED
SMALL CAR
Must be in good condition, with MoT.
Up to £1,000 paid.
Telephone 07961 589264.

WANTED

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

GEOFFREY HOWARTH (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 12 Scafell Road Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 4UH, who died on 16/12/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 24/08/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW
T532511

10 Personals

Personal

ATTENTION LADIES 40-60
Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see am genuine guy.
Slim 55, attractive, caring, romantic too, looking for genuine lady just like you.
Box Number P21221 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE CHRISTIAN LADY
Would like to meet single lonely genuine male for friendship. Must love animals.
Age unimportant.
Box Number P21220 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

DIVORCED LADY
Young 70, young at heart, quite fit, looking for companionship and possible relationship.
Genuine replies only.
Box Number P21215, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 70 YEARS
5ft 6, slim, would like to meet similar lady for friendship / relationship.
Box Number C21216 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LONELY RETIRED GENT
Late 70's.
Very young at heart.
Widower, own home and car.
Various active interests and very caring.
WLTM mature lady to write text and chat.
Likes TV and DVD's.
Box Number P21218, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

You should be able to trust the ads you see.

If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.

ASA.org.uk
Advertising Standards Authority

The win marked a turning point for Wolves

Crowds watch the open top bus go by with the players waving

The Wolves squad celebrating at Wembley

Wolves players on the party bus. Bully is on the left

Old golden memories of Sherpa Van Trophy win

IT was 30 years ago when Wolves fans packed out the city centre in a sea of old gold and black after a glorious Wembley victory.

In scenes reminiscent of the Championship promotion party – just a few weeks ago – thousands of supporters congregated in Wolverhampton for the team's civic parade after the Sherpa Van Trophy win in May 1988.

The triumph 30 years ago marked a turning point as the club set about climbing back through the leagues.

Graham Turner's side had lifted the Fourth Division title three weeks earlier. And Wolves had a chance to clinch another trophy at the Home of Football against Burnley. Tens of thousands of supporters travelled down to London for the Sherpa Van final – proving the club's fanbase remained as passionate as ever. And the packed civic parade back in Wolverhampton showed the city still stood firmly behind the club despite its troubles.

Goals from Andy Mutch and Robbie Dennison secured the cup and put the seal on a stunning season, which saw club legend Steve Bull score on an astonishing 52 occasions.

Unbelievable

Ally Robertson was Wolves' skipper on the day in May 1988 and described his memories of a 'fantastic' day which proved Wolves' remained a big club – despite their slump down the divisions.

The defender said: "It was just great to be part of. To see 50,000 Wolves supporters at Wembley was unbelievable, just unbelievable.

"On the way to Wembley I was thinking – even though it is horrible thing to say – I had played in the First Division all my life more or less, then we are in this little Sherpa Van final.

"On the way to Wembley, you are thinking well 'this is just a little cup game'. Then all of a sudden, we were about three miles from Wembley, and it was just gold and black everywhere.

"It was incredible. And I can still remember – just before we went out the door – saying to the lads, 'we have got to win this for them'.

"We could not believe how many fans were there, we really couldn't believe it. I started laughing the other night when I saw the first team having their parade through the city. They won [The Championship] and are back in the Premier League. But it was similar for us on that Sunday after the Sherpa Van.

"I thought 'good God' – it shows how much it means to the supporters. When you think we had just won the fourth division and the Sherpa Van, and we had exactly the same kind of celebration, it is absolutely great."

Anticipation was huge in the build-up to the game with fans snaking around Molineux for tickets.

Up to 6,000 camped and queued for the last remaining 4,500 tickets days before the game took place, with the total attendance larger than an England versus Scotland game a week earlier. It remains Wolves' last trip to Wembley, while the crowd of 80,841 still stands as the Trophy's highest-ever attendance.

Long-awaited success on the pitch came against a backdrop of turmoil off it, with Wolves having faced liquidation and extinction in the years preceding the final. Northern Irishman Dennison, who netted Wolves' second goal, said: "It was a difficult time for the club then. They looked like they were going out of business at one point.

"And then I think the momentum started again with those couple of seasons where we got promoted and won the Sherpa Van. I think it was a crucial time really for the club. The parade the other day was sort of similar to what we went through as well. You know driving through the streets of Wolverhampton, the place was absolutely rammed.

"The celebrations afterwards were absolutely incredible. The fans deserved to get back on track again and that is what we were able to produce at that time again."

Legendary full-back Andy Thompson previously revealed how the Wolves players were stunned by the number of supporters who had travelled to Wembley.

The Featherstone-born defender said: "We knew how big the crowd was going to be, but nothing prepared us for what we saw.

"I'd never seen a group of people that big in my life and the Wolves fans were in great voice. It set us up for a day to remember."

Meanwhile club-record goalscorer Bully described the scale of the club's support as making 'the hairs stand up on the back of your neck'

In his review of the match, Bully said: "Unbelievable! That's the only way I can describe our victory at Wembley, which rounded off a quite incredible season.

If someone had told me last August that by the end of May Wolves would have won the Fourth Division title and the Sherpa Van Trophy and I would score 52 goals, I would have laughed at them and told them they were mad.

Dream

"But it's happened and it's a dream come true. Going to Wembley from our hotel I don't think it really dawned on us we were actually going to play in a final until we got about three miles from the ground.

"Then we saw Wolves supporters in their hats and scarves waving and shouting at us, and that's when the nerves really started coming.

"And to walk out for the start of a match in front of more than 80,000 supporters was another quite unbelievable and unforgettable experience.

"I wouldn't mind playing at Wembley every week." Keith Downing, who completed the full 90 minutes in Wolves' midfield, said: "I think at the time back in 1988 it was a revival of the club itself.

"I suppose it is a fond memory to a lot of supporters. It was the first sign of a recovery and the Sherpa Van was the icing on the cake, because the main priority was to get back up through the leagues.

Proud Wolves boss Turner said at the time that the Sherpa Van success had been the highpoint of the season.

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by David Cosgrove

And I can still remember – just before we went out the door – saying to the lads, 'we have got to win this for them'

Tivi lose promotion plea but boss stays

TIVIDALE boss Dave King is plotting another push for West Midlands League glory after his side's promotion appeal was rejected by the Football Association.

King and general manager Leon Murray travelled to Wembley for the hearing after appealing against the decision to promote Midland League Division One side Ilkeston at Tivi's expense. Both sides had finished runners-up in their respective divisions but the Derbyshire outfit were awarded a place in the Midland Premier.

Tividale were knocked back due to the fact the Midland League Division One has a direct link with the Midland Football League Division, whereas the West Midlands Premier acts as an independent step six competition.

King, however, has committed himself to the club after rejecting an approach from a club further up the pyramid. He said: "All our focus in now on next season. I think we gave a great account our ourselves at Wembley but unfortunately we couldn't get the decision overturned."

World Cup special with Wolves stars

DARLASTON Town (1874) FC are holding an Evening of World Cup Football with former Wolves Stars Matt Murray and Joleon Lescott as special guests looking back on their careers and Wolves promotion winning year.

Premier League, FA Cup and Football League Cup winner and former England International Joleon Lescott will be joined by Wolves 2003 play-off final man-of-the-match and Sky Sports pundit Matt Murray.

The evening on July 7 will feature one of the World Cup quarter final games at 7pm . Following the game Lescott and Murray, both highly respected football pundits who are still closely involved with Wolves, will reflect on their own careers, the rise of Wolves under Nuno Espirito Santo and will answer questions on today's Premier League and of course England's World Cup performances.

Memorabilia from Wolves promotion winning year will be auctioned on the night as will a signed shirt of Walsall FC.The event is at The Paycare Ground, Bentley Leisure Pavilion

Runners versus horses in Welsh hill race

THERE were plenty of opportunities for athletes fro Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to pull on the vest and race at the weekend.

The action got underway on Saturday morning with a small group of DK and former DK members taking on the Man vs Horse race in Wales. This is an annual event where runners and horses cover a 23-mile course of Welsh hills and the prize goes to the first one back on either two legs or four. Although the race was in its 39th year there have only ever been two human victors. This year's event was a close run affair with the horse winning by a mere 23 seconds.

Of the blue hoops in attendance Steve Holdcroft put in an impressive performance to claim 23rd place in 2.56.19 but the weather put paid to Simon Hughes' bid as he called it a day at around 16 miles. A team made up of Dudley runners and former DK members, Matt Biggs, Dave Norman and Darrell Bodin of Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers took part in the event as a relay team finishing fifth in 2.54.33.

Sport

Old gold memories of Wolves' Wembley win

Page 39

Skipper leads Heathens to stunning win

SKIPPER Adam Roynon produced a stunning final ride to secure maximum points for Cradley from their 49-40 win against Coventry.

The Motor Market Heathens had already wrapped up victory in the penultimate race, courtesy of a fifth heat win of the afternoon from teenage sensation Drew Kemp. But with local rivals Birmingham having meetings in hand on Cradley, Will Pottinger's side knew how invaluable the extra away point could prove to be.

Roynon or Jason Edwards needed to split the home duo of Connor Mountain and former Heathen Jon Armstrong – but there was anxiety early on. The Bees made the gate and Armstrong hit the front while Roynon had to work his way into second. With Mountain breathing down his neck the pressure was well and truly on. But the Heathens No.1 went out into the dirt to blast by Armstrong on the entrance to lap three and also ensured a personal paid maximum in the process.

It rounded off a solid afternoon for Cradley who took control of the meeting early on, opening with three heat advantages. But they were given a reminder that there was plenty still to be done in the sixth race as they handed Coventry a 5-0. Chris Widman had already retired at the back when Alfie Bowtell was deemed to have collided with Danny Phillips on the second lap and was disqualified.

A fired-up Bowtell made amends by comfortably winning Heat Eight before tucking in behind Kemp for a 5-1 in the ninth as they moved nine in front. But with Edwards and Kyle Bickley missing out at the start of the next, Coventry edged back to within five. Step forward in-form duo Roynon and Kemp who claimed the final five race wins between them.

Zero hero as Rutter roars to TT glory

BRIERLEY Hill-born speedster Michael Rutter claimed a superb Isle of Man TT victory, the sixth of his career in the competition, with a win in the TT Zero event.

It was a superb day for the 46-year-old who followed up the success with third place in the Supertwins series.

Rutter received his first-placed rosette from the Duke of Cambridge Prince William, who was present at the electric bike event.

Team Mugen rider Rutter set a new lap record for electric bikes in claiming victory in the TT Zero race.

He became the first rider to complete the one-lap sprint of the 37-mile (60km) course at an average speed of more than 120mph.

He said: "To do a lap of 121.824mph on an electric bike is amazing."

Rutter, on his Paton machine, took third in the Supertwins behind winner Michael Dunlop and Derek McGee.

Wilkinson takes control at Gornal

GORNAL Athletic have appointed Brendon Wilkinson as their new manager.

Club director Kevin Williams is excited about the new developments at Garden Walk.

"We wanted a candidate with the experience to get us out of this league", Williams said. "He's got players who want to play for him and it was unanimous between the committee and the chairman to give him the role."

With The Peacocks currently in West Midlands League Division One, the club provides a step up for Wilkinson, who has previously only worked at Sunday league level.

"I know he's not managed at this level before", Williams admitted, "but Brendon took AFC Woodcross from Division Eight to the Wolverhampton and District Sunday League Premier."

Wilkinson has already brought in assistant Craig Love, and coaches Mike Roberton and Dan Crudgington to work alongside him.

Lee Farrington was installed as Gornal's new chairman, just two days prior to the Wilkinson announcement, stating his hopes to 'take the club to the next level'. "I have been thrilled and honoured to be asked to become chairman of Gornal Athletic Football Club," he said. "We need to re-energise the club, provide the supporters with a successful team and academy and bring the missing spectators back to Garden Walk."

The former Cradley Town vice-chairman replaces Williams, who remains as a director after five years in charge. Gornal finished fifth last term.

NEAL CLOSING IN ON LEADERS

STOURBRIDGE racer Matt Neal remains in contention for the British Touring Car Championship driver's title after securing another podium finish.

The three-time champion continued his recent run of fine form with his third podium finish in five races.

The event at Oulton Park in Cheshire, again proved the title credentials of his Honda Civic Type R as he kept the pressure on the Championship pacesetters. Neal qualified in fifth place for the weekend's races, carrying ballast of 33kg.

He went on to navigate the notoriously tricky course to cement a fifth place finish in the first of three races. In the second, Neal continued to defy his handicap. After going into the fifth lap in third place, he made a late move to claim second place for his third, and the team's fourth, podium finish of the 2018 season.

Contention

Starting in sixth position for the final race of the weekend, Neal initially looked to defy the odds but couldn't sustain his challenge, finishing a disappointing 14th. Despite that Neal remains firmly in contention for the overall driver's title.

Neal said: "Not a bad weekend for us. Maybe no cigar this time. I think it was promising with the car and I was just unlucky in the last race, otherwise I think we could have had three fairly solid top six finishes. We would have been right up there in the championship.

"Where you qualify really dictates your weekend and your fortunes. Being lighter will help us in qualifying because it is so close.

"There's a long way to go yet – we're not even half way."

The weekend's results leaves Neal in sixth place in the driver's standings, that's 14 points behind third place and 26 behind current leader Colin Turkington. With six races to go, Neal and his Halfords Yuassa team next travel to the Croft circuit in the North-East over the weekend of June 23-24.

Siblings target archery glory

Stourbridge sisters Heike Palmer and Freya are making their mark in the world of archery

A PAIR of Stourbridge sisters are arrowing in on success in the sport of archery.

Ace duo Freya and Heike Palmer have consistently hit the target since first drawing their bows and are now eyeing glory on the international stage.

Freya, aged 15, is a member of Archery GB's Olympic Pathway Academy, attending monthly residential coaching camps at Lilleshall.

Heike, just 12, will represent England at under-14 level in Home Nations Tournament. She caught the eye of selectors by winning the Long Mynd Archers event, breaking a national record previously held by her sister. She is also on Archery GB's talent development programme.

The girls fit archery around studying at Ridgewood High School and are members of Wyre Forest Company of Archers. To sponsor the sisters email maxpax32@virginmedia.com

Himley are Tamworth's latest victims

BIRMINGHAM League division one leaders Tamworth won for the sixth time in a row, at the expense of Himley, who were restricted to 202-8 before knocking off the required runs for the loss of six wickets with nine balls remaining.

The early Himley batting found the going tough at Stourbridge Road but the middle-order of Jamie Turner (43) and Stuart Wedge (40 not out) lifted them to a competitive total. Dan Bowker was the most successful bowler for Tamworth with 3-38.

In reply, skipper Ben Maddox (54 not out) steered his side to victory after Liam Banks (43) and Jason Jakeman (40) had taken them to 131-3.

Halesowen were denied full points as Shifnal hung on for a losing draw on 161-9. Halesowen had scored 245-8. Ed Kilbee (81) and Hassan Qaumi (61) added 114 for the second Halesowen wicket, while Alex Wyatt (4 -45) and Alex Riley (3-53) took seven of the eight wickets that fell, the eighth being a run out

After a decent start, 46 without loss, Steve Leach was left to defend Shifnal's honour, finishing unbeaten on 79 from 135 balls. Eddie Rhodes took 4-40 and Charlie Hartley 3-42.

Ijaz Yousaf hit 70 for Whitchurch as they totalled 174-4 against Stourbridge. Hasnain Nawaz took 4-47 for Stourbridge who found batting difficult in reply. Dwayne Crossgill's 66 revived their hopes and he was eighth out at 157. Stourbridge finished 15 runs short of victory on 160-8.

Glassboys hang on to top marksmen

STOURBRIDGE legend Leon Broadhurst and striker Luke Benbow have agreed fresh terms for next season.

Broadhurst, aged 34, is the Glassboys' record appearance holder, playing 731 times and scoring 145 goals.

He swept up at the end-of-season awards in April and ended last campaign as top scorer, with 19 goals.

Benbow, 26, scored 17 from 35 appearances last term, after rejoining the club on loan from Solihull Moors. Tom Tonks, Paul McCone and Kaiman Anderson are among the others staying on.

Stourbridge will be part of the newly-formed Southern League Central.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, June 14, 2018

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